



International Scholars Program Policy January 2011

Subject: Health Insurance Coverage

The International Scholars Program (ISP) at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) serves as a gateway for guests from around the world who visit this institution. Following an application process and program administrative review, scholars may be invited to participate in an educational experience for a period of a few days to a year. The length of the visit period is determined on an individual basis, taking into account many factors including the category or type of visitor who will come. The international guest categories are:

- International Visitors
- Independently Funded Scholars (including China Program participants)
- Stecker Scholar Award Recipients

All International guests participating in a program longer than 2 weeks in duration must purchase health insurance coverage for the duration of their stay at NCH through the plan approved by Ohio State University (OSU). Visits not exceeding two weeks may be covered by the scholar/visitor's current health plan, or by travelers insurance.

Upon acceptance to the program, and prior to their arrival at NCH, international visitor/scholars with

- B-1 Visas (Visitors < 30 days, but > 2 weeks)
- J-1 Visas (Stecker and Independently Funded Scholars > 30 days)
- Visa Waivers (As determined by the US State Department)

are required to secure health coverage through an approved OSU or NCH plan.

With the exception of Stecker Scholars, individuals will be responsible for contacting the insurance provider and making payments using the information sent to them by the NCH International Program. The ISP will initiate contact with the insurance provider for Stecker Scholarship awardees after receiving the completed insurance application from the scholar. Premium costs will be deducted from the Stecker Scholar's stipend unless the scholar indicates otherwise.

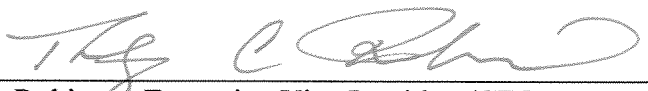
Health insurance coverage should begin no later than the first day at NCH and end no earlier than the last day at NCH. In addition, the U.S. Department of State requires all scholars and their dependents who accompany them to, or join them in, the U.S., have health insurance during their entire stay in the United States.

NCH will terminate the visits of scholars or visitors who do not purchase and maintain health insurance.

Scholar visitors may also maintain current coverage in their home country, or purchase travel insurance in addition to the OSU-approved health plan above, if they so choose. Individuals with pre-existing health conditions are particularly encouraged to maintain their current coverage in their home country as most U.S. health insurance plans have restrictions on coverage of preexisting health problems.

Approved by the IAC 1/19/11

Approved by  Date: 1/21/11
Karen E. Heiser, PhD, Vice President, Education

 Date: 2/1/11
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