

Medical Services in Spain – March 2010

For those of you who know me and my family personally, you will know we have had a really up and down few months due to the fact that we have been going back and forth to Granada and Baza hospital for tests for my youngest daughter.

Whilst, I don't really want to go into full details I wanted to share our experience with you as regards the medical service.

My daughter had an initial consultation in October last year. Four days later she had blood tests locally, then a week later once the initial tests were back we were immediately referred to a specialist in Granada.

We could not believe that we had an appointment within 4 days. What more could you ask for?

We went to Granada hospital and my daughter had an examination followed by more blood tests, then came the hard part. One specific test she had, would take approximately 4 weeks to come back, in between this we have been back and forth to both Baza and Granada hospital for more tests.

Unfortunately, due to the Christmas period we ended up having to wait nearer to 8 weeks for the results to come back (during this time we had an extremely worrying time). We were called a Tuesday to be told the results were in and were given an appointment the same week to go back to the hospital.

We ended up in Granada on the Friday morning, and were given good news in some respect that a lot of the tests that could have caused additional medical problems were ok.

However, our hopes were somewhat dashed when we had it confirmed that she had what we had been "clinically told" at the beginning - not life threatening, but as we are told it is a "cradle to grave" condition which she will have to live with and will need support continually throughout her life....

So my point for the writing of this article is to praise the hospital and all their services - of which have been fantastic - we would still probably be waiting for an appointment in the UK (who knows).

Continued/....

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The language barrier remains a problem for many of us and even though I have 3-4 hours of Spanish classes a week to try and improve my conversational skills, it doesn't get any easier in cases like this because you need a lot of medical knowledge. The doctor did speak a little English but in fairness I didn't expect him to.

I have been very reliant on my elder daughter to translate for me throughout this and I cannot praise her enough. She has acted with such maturity in what has been a hard time for all of us and I cannot thank her enough for this.

For those who have said The Sierras was "rather down" with its negative article last month - yes, it probably was, in terms that I was very down at the time that I was putting in the time and effort to produce The Sierras for people to read, during a very hectic and distressing time for me and my family.

We came to Spain for a better life for our children. I work from home and I am lucky enough to have the time with them that we never had in the UK. My husband works locally for a Spanish company and we are lucky as his job is legal which enables us to pay into the Spanish system. However, we are well aware there are others who are not so lucky and have a hard time trying to survive.

The article by Joseph O'Donnell showed his side of living in Spain - rant or otherwise. People complain of negativity in the magazine but still nobody has emailed me with some positive stories despite numerous requests....

So come on guys, don't be negative about The Sierras if you aren't prepared to contribute yourself - I am here and waiting to hear from you, whether it be a recipe, gardening article or about life here in Spain.

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