

Northern Ireland (NI)	Republic of Ireland (ROI)
- NHS funds 90% of health care through government taxation. - Everyone has free access to hospital care and a GP. - Charges for each prescription item are subsidised by the government. - Many people are exempted from payment for prescriptions for medical or social reasons. - Almost 90% of all prescriptions are dispensed free of charge. - High Starfield score.*	- Health care funded through a mixture of general taxation, social and private insurance and personal 'out of pocket' expenses. - Hospital care is free of charge for all. - Only those on the lowest income (approx 27%) have free access to a GP and to free prescriptions: these are classified as General Medical Services (GMS) patients. - Non-GMS patients must pay for visits to the GP and practice nurse (approx 35-50 euro per visit) and for all prescriptions up to a value of 75 euro (£50) per month. - Intermediate Starfield score.* - Heartwatch - a national programme for the secondary prevention of CHD involving 20% of general practices.

*The Starfield score reflects the strength of primary care in a country. (Starfield B. *Primary care: Balancing health needs, services and technology*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998)