

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS TO HEALTH CARE: TREATMENT AND COVERAGE

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Everyone, including undocumented immigrants, has a right to emergency health services. Hospital emergency rooms must help anyone who needs emergency services and community health centers also must help anyone. They will treat you whether or not you have insurance, money or immigration documents.

Healthcare workers care about your health, not your immigration status. Patients can seek care with confidence that their personal information is private. Policies generally require immigration agencies' to avoid engaging in enforcement actions in and near health care facilities like hospitals, health clinics, urgent care and doctors' offices.

Hospitals or doctors may ask for a photo ID - but only to verify that the person getting treatment is the same person listed on medical records or a prescription. If you do not have a photo ID, you can say "I need medical care but I do not have a photo ID."

You do not have to provide information about your immigration status to get health care. Your immigration status should not be a barrier to receiving care. A health care provider should not ask about your immigration status, unless they are helping you apply for Medicaid or insurance. If someone asks you about applying for Medicaid or health insurance, you can say "I am not eligible for health insurance and do not want to apply."

You do not have to provide your immigration status if you are applying for insurance for someone else, like your child. For Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA, only the person applying to get coverage needs to provide their citizenship or immigration status. If you are applying for someone else, like a child, you only need to share their information. If you are undocumented and applying for a family member, you should not provide any information about your immigration status. Instead, you may say, "I am not applying for health insurance for myself."

Many immigrants are eligible to get health insurance and help paying for insurance, under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) If you are lawfully present in the U.S., you may be eligible to buy health insurance. The only exception is if you have DACA. Depending on your income, you may be able to receive help paying for it. You can apply through a website like Healthcare.gov or get free help from a person who sells insurance or a community organization. Go to <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/> to find free in-person help in your area.

You have a right to get free help from a language interpreter when you are getting healthcare or applying for health insurance. If your health care provider doesn't speak your language, you have a right to be helped by an interpreter - at no cost. Hospitals and community health centers may use bilingual staff, telephone interpretation services, or qualified in-person interpreters to assist you. You also have a right to an interpreter and translated resources at no cost when you apply for health programs like Medicaid, CHIP, or a plan from Healthcare.gov.

Personal information you provide when you apply for health insurance is kept private. Any information you give when you apply for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or the ACA will be used only to determine your eligibility and to run the program. This information cannot be shared with immigration enforcement.

Receiving government health insurance and using health services will not affect your immigration status. Health care services or health insurance, including ACA coverage with financial help, Medicaid, CHIP, state-funded health coverage and community health center and hospital services and financial assistance will not affect your immigration application. There is one exception - If the government pays for your long-term care in a nursing home or other institution, that could make it harder to become a Lawful Permanent Resident (get a green card).

You can still get care without health insurance. This includes care at community health centers, migrant health centers, free clinics, and public hospitals. You have options.

- To find a community or migrant health center: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>
- To find a free or charitable clinic, go to: www.nafcclinics.org/find-clinic