



Know Your Rights - Patients

Regardless of your immigration status, you have the right to health care.

Doctors, hospitals, clinics, health centers or other medical providers may ask for your information to determine if you qualify for public health insurance. However, they cannot deny you medical care solely because of your immigration status—or based on assumptions about your status due to your accent, appearance, language or whether you have a Social Security number. Doing so could be a violation of federal civil rights laws.

If you need emergency medical services, hospitals with emergency rooms are required to screen and treat you, regardless of your immigration status, financial situation or whether you have insurance. Similarly, you are entitled to receive primary and preventive care at community health centers, no matter your immigration status, ability to pay or whether you are insured.

Health care should not be denied to you because you don't have identification.

Hospitals and health care providers may ask for photo ID, but this is not for immigration enforcement. The purpose of the ID is to confirm that the person receiving care matches the name on the medical record or prescription.

Will health care workers check my immigration status?

Health care providers care about your health and well-being, not your immigration status. You should never avoid or delay receiving health care services because of your immigration status.

In some cases, a health care provider may ask you about your immigration status to better understand your situation and to offer better care with other services you may want or need.

Whether you're applying for health insurance for yourself or someone else, your application cannot be denied simply because you don't have your Social Security number.



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Your information may only be used for health insurance purposes if you apply for health insurance for yourself or a family member.

Federal privacy regulations protect families applying for health insurance, including those with members of varying immigration statuses. The information you provide when applying for Medicaid, CHIP or an ACA Marketplace plan may be used for running that program, not for immigration enforcement.

Government employees, enrollment assistants and others helping with insurance applications are legally obligated to keep your information confidential and secure.

When you apply for health insurance and receive medical care, you are entitled to services in your native language.

You are entitled to receive language assistance services at no charge when seeking health care at a hospital or community health center. Hospitals, community health centers and government offices may offer bilingual staff, phone interpretation or qualified in-person interpreters to assist with language needs.

Regardless of your immigration status or health insurance status, you have the right to receive medical care in the U.S.:

If you have insurance, it's recommended to seek medical care at a place that's covered by your insurance policy. You can find a list of covered organizations near you by calling your insurance provider or looking at your plan information online. Public and critical access hospitals and emergency rooms offer health care services to people with and without insurance.