



If your immigration status is “undocumented” You have the right to receive emergency health services

Here’s information to help you find safe healthcare in an emergency.

**Q My immigration status is “undocumented.”
Can I go to an urgent care clinic or hospital
emergency department?**

A You and your family can seek care at an urgent care clinic or hospital emergency department if you are dealing with a medical emergency. To help you decide where you should seek care for your emergency, check the [How are you feeling today?](#) tool. You will likely be responsible for the costs of this level of care. Keep reading for information about payment assistance.

- You will NOT have to provide your immigration status to receive care, but if you apply for insurance you might be asked about your status.
- Whatever your status, you have a right to an interpreter when you are receiving medical treatment.

Q If I am undocumented, can I get Medicare or Medicaid?

A In general, no. But there are some other options that may be available. One is Emergency Medicaid.

Q What is Emergency Medicaid? How can I find out if I qualify?

A Medicaid is a government-funded health insurance benefit program created to provide health insurance to certain low-income families and individuals.

Each state in the U.S. must provide limited coverage of emergency medical services to non-citizens who otherwise would qualify for full Medicaid benefits. This is the Emergency Medicaid program.

If your immigration status is “undocumented” and you are being treated for your medical emergency, it is especially important that you or a family member ask a member of the care team if you qualify for [Emergency Medicaid](#).

Anyone with end stage renal disease* who is having serious symptoms should seek and receive immediate medical attention.

- * Emergency Medicaid is also available for situations involving emergency labor and delivery.

You do not have to have Emergency Medicaid before you get care. First get the care you need, and then apply for Emergency Medicaid after your medical emergency has been taken care of. If you qualify, coverage will be provided for the emergency care you received.

Different Rules in Different States

Each U.S. state has its own Medicaid program, so specific requirements and benefits depend on the state in which you live.

- Information on applying for Emergency Medicaid is different in each state. This information is detailed in the attached resource.
- Benefits related to treatment of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) also vary by state.

When applying, you will NOT have to provide your immigration status, but you WILL need to provide the following documents with your application:

- Bank statements
- Valid identification/Passport
- Pay stubs
- Utility bill to prove state residency
- Medical bills related to the emergency visit

Q Can I qualify for other types of Medicaid?

A People with undocumented status don't have access to health insurance plans that are government-sponsored, except for emergency care available through Emergency Medicaid.

Q Can I get private health insurance?

A Yes. There are insurance options for undocumented immigrants, but they are limited by state and federal legislation.

- You can get private health insurance, also called "commercial insurance."
- If you work for an organization that offers health insurance, apply through your employer.
- More expensive plans outside of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace are the only private plans that are available.

If you are looking for private coverage but don't know where to start, the first step is to know your rights: Read the National Immigration Law Center's Know Your Rights page.

(LINK: <https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights/>).

Next steps could include:

- Check out your local community advocacy program.
- Contact an insurance enrollment assistant using the government's [Find Local Help](#) tool.
- Ask for enrollment advice from the [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#).

Q Are there other ways I can save money on care?

A Yes

- Financial assistance programs may be available to help with costs for more expensive name-brand medications. Manufacturers may have programs available for people with private insurance.
- Some states also have State Insurance Counseling Teams that can give you advice on the best ways to obtain coverage and medications.



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For more information or to file a grievance, please contact us:

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