



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

WHEN IS INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS REQUIRED TO ACCESS HEALTHCARE SERVICES?

After recent Executive Orders, families may have questions about when immigration status info is required to access services.

You are not required to have US citizenship, lawful immigration status or a Social Security Number (SSN) to receive healthcare services under federal law. Federal law has not changed. Medical providers or clinics may ask for this information to help determine if you qualify for public health insurance, like Medicaid. But they cannot deny treatment based solely on your immigration status or inability to prove your immigration status. Hospitals and health centers may ask for identification. This is usually to ensure you are the same person who is on medical records or a prescription. **You cannot be denied care because you do not have a photo ID.**



Immigration status information is not required to access most healthcare.

- **Community Health Centers** are required by federal law to provide care to people who live in their service area. These clinics **cannot request or require information about or proof of immigration status or citizenship to provide care.** These clinics are also called Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- **Hospitals** have an obligation to provide emergency care to anyone in need and cannot require proof of immigration status or citizenship to provide emergency care.
- **Programs that help with healthcare costs:**
 - Some hospitals have programs to help with the cost of care. Programs run by UNM Hospital and Presbyterian are available without requiring information about immigration status.
 - State-funded healthcare programs cannot deny benefits on the basis of immigration status. This means that county-administered programs that help with unpaid medical bills, known as "indigent care" programs, cannot request information about immigration status.
- **Emergency Medicaid (EMSNC)** can cover the cost of emergency care for low-income people who cannot qualify for Medicaid due to their immigration status. To enroll in the program, applicants will not be required to disclose their immigration status.

For Medicaid or Exchange health coverage, information about immigration status is only necessary for individuals seeking to enroll.

- Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen or in an immigration status that qualifies for Medicaid or the Exchange to enroll in those programs.
- Information about citizenship, immigration status or Social Security Numbers cannot be required from household members who are not seeking to enroll in coverage. For example, a parent can enroll their US citizen children into the program without having to provide information about their own immigration status or social security numbers.



Scan here for more on getting coverage through Medicaid, the Exchange, or EMSNC.

"What should I do if I am asked about my status?"



If you are required to provide information about your immigration status or US citizenship to access healthcare or have questions about what information you should provide, **contact NM Center on Law and Poverty at (505) 255-2840.**