

EVERYONE CAN GET HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN NYC:

Frequently Asked Questions for Immigrant New Yorkers

Every New Yorker has the right to quality health care, regardless of their immigration status or ability to pay. Take care of yourself and your family, and get the health care services you need. Many City services, including health care and social services, are available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.



HEALTH INSURANCE

Which health insurance plans can I sign up for?

Immigrant New Yorkers have many insurance options. Children in New York State can get health insurance, even if they are undocumented. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) has Certified Application Counselors who can help you figure out if you are eligible and how to sign up for health insurance. For more information, call **311**, text “CoveredNYC” to 877-877 or visit nyc.gov/health/healthcoverage.

If you are visiting NYC Health + Hospitals, ask for a Financial Counselor to help you find health insurance. Remember, you have the right to get services in your preferred language, including written translations and in-person or telephone interpretation.

NYC CARE

I am not eligible for health insurance. How can I get health care services?

NYC Care is a health care access program that provides low- and no-cost services to New Yorkers who cannot get or pay for health insurance. NYC Care is **not** a health insurance plan. However, if you have NYC Care, you can get a membership card to access health care services, choose your own health care provider and receive low-cost medications. NYC Health + Hospital provides all NYC Care services.

How much does NYC Care cost? How do I sign up for NYC Care?

NYC Care health services are either low or no cost, depending on your household size and income. To sign up for NYC Care, call 646-NYC-CARE (646-692-2273) or ask to meet with a Financial Counselor at any NYC Health + Hospital location. For more information, visit nyccare.nyc.

EMERGENCY CARE FOR NEW YORKERS WHO DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

I do not have health insurance but need emergency care. How do I pay for it?

Emergency Medicaid helps low-income undocumented and temporary immigrant New Yorkers pay for health care services during an emergency. Immigrant New Yorkers who are eligible for Emergency Medicaid may also qualify for NYC Care to cover the cost of nonemergency services, like visits to their medical provider and medicine.

You can sign up for Emergency Medicaid at any time in case of a future emergency. If you are visiting NYC Health + Hospitals, ask for a Financial Counselor who can help you sign up. You can get emergency care at any hospital in NYC, regardless of your immigration status or ability to pay. For more information, call **311** or text “CoveredNYC” to 877-877.

PUBLIC CHARGE

What is the public charge rule? Is it still being used?

In August 2019, the Trump’s administration announced a new public charge rule. The rule tried to stop immigrants from getting a green card or a visa if they used certain public benefits — such as Medicaid, food assistance, or housing assistance — or the federal government thought they were likely to depend on public benefits in the future. However, the Trump administration’s public charge rule has ended. As of March 9, 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it will return to using the policies that were in place before August 2019. For more information and updates, visit nyc.gov/publiccharge.

How will I know if the public charge rule applies to me?

If you have questions about public charge, call the ActionNYC hotline at 800-354-0365 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and say “public charge” to get timely and trusted information and connections to City-funded, free and safe immigration legal help. The hotline is free and anonymous, and help is available in over 200 languages.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

I am an immigrant who is undocumented. Can my provider report me to federal immigration authorities, like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

Providers must protect the privacy of their patients, regardless of their immigration status. Hospitals and clinics do not share patient information without patient approval, unless required to do so by law. For more information about how providers protect the privacy of immigrants, visit nychealthandhospitals.org/immigrant and read H+H’s Open Letter to Immigrant New Yorkers.

What should I do if ICE officers come to the hospital?

You do not have to speak to ICE. If an ICE officer tries to enter a private area, like your hospital room, you have the right to keep the door closed and ask if they have a judicial warrant. A judicial warrant is a legal document from a court, signed by a judge, that allows someone or a group of people to do something. For more information, visit nyc.gov/immigrants and search for **know your rights**. If an ICE officer detains you or your loved one, you can call the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative at 800-354-0365 to get free and safe legal help.