

Know Your Rights.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
CUBANS AND HAITIANS ENTERING
THE UNITED STATES REGARDING
MEDICAL CARE

ALL patients, regardless of immigration status, have certain rights in the United States.

Regardless of immigration status, people who have medical needs or concerns should seek treatment. Delaying needed medical care may worsen a health condition or make it more likely someone will need more complicated, lengthy, or expensive treatment.

You CAN decline to provide information about your immigration status.

Medical providers should not ask a patient about their immigration status. If they do, patients have the right to decline to provide that information without it impacting their medical care.

You CANNOT be turned away by a hospital or emergency room, regardless of immigration status.

Under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), hospitals and emergency rooms cannot turn away an individual seeking medical care, regardless of immigration status.

Your medical information IS private and confidential.

That means that all medical providers must safely store and secure medical information and that patients must give written permission for their health information to be shared.

You have a RIGHT to free interpretation in your preferred language.

Any health organization that receives federal funding must provide interpretation in a patient's preferred language at no cost to the patient.



Medical Benefits

Non-citizens in the US are generally not eligible for most federally-funded medical benefits, however there are some exceptions that may apply to Cubans and Haitians entering the United States, depending on their immigration status.

Note: the list below is not exhaustive and certain eligibility rules vary by state. For more information, see [this resource](#).

Immigration Status	Description	Automatically eligible for medical benefits?
Cuban / Haitian entrants	Cubans and Haitians in the U.S. who have been granted parole, who have applied for asylum or who are in removal proceedings are considered “Cuban/Haitian Entrants” and thus are eligible for federally-funded benefits, such as Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) and Medicaid health insurance programs.	✓
Refugees & asylees	Cubans and Haitians who were either admitted to the U.S. as refugees, or who were granted asylum in the U.S., as well as Cubans and Haitians who obtained Lawful Permanent Resident status after being admitted as refugees or granted asylum, are eligible for federal benefits, including RMA and Medicaid.	✓
Non-immigrants	Cubans or Haitians who entered the U.S. on a non-immigrant visa who have not obtained any other qualifying status are not eligible for federally funded medical insurance. However, they may still receive low or no-cost medical care at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in their community. If there is a serious accident or medical condition, they may also be eligible for certain state-funded emergency medical coverage.	✗
Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)	Cubans or Haitians who have been granted LPR status are not eligible for federal benefits during their first five years in LPR status, unless they received their status pursuant to a grant of refugee status, asylum, or T non-immigrant status, or unless they qualify as Cuban/Haitian Entrants.	✗
Undocumented	People who entered the U.S. without inspection and who remain undocumented are not eligible for federal benefits such as Medicaid. However, they may still receive low- or no-cost medical care at FQHCs in their community. If there is a serious accident or medical condition, they may also be eligible for certain state-funded emergency medical coverage.	✗
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	Some Haitians may have been granted TPS, but TPS in itself does not entitle a person to any federal benefits. However, someone with TPS may have an underlying status such as parole, or a pending application for asylum, which might make them eligible for RMA or Medicaid as a Haitian entrant.	✗
Special considerations for pregnant women & children	Some states also have special medical insurance programs for pregnant women and children, regardless of immigration status.	

Eligibility for benefits, including state-specific programs, may vary for adults, children, and seniors. To find out what medical insurance or programs you may be eligible for, contact a local refugee resettlement agency, a trusted community-based organization, a community health center or healthcare provider, or a state social service office.