

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



EMSNC

Emergency Medical Services for Immigrants

Have you had emergency services in the last 90 days? Are you barred from Medicaid due to your immigration status? Do you live in New Mexico?

If you answered yes to these questions, you may qualify for “EMSNC”.

What is EMSNC?

EMSNC or Emergency Medical Services for Non-Citizens (formerly called EMSA) is for immigrants who cannot get Medicaid due to their immigration status. EMSNC pays for emergency medical services, including labor and delivery.

You must submit your application within 90 days after getting services.

How do you apply?

1. You have to submit a Medical Assistance application to the Income Support Division (ISD).

- You can complete the application on the YESNM website at yes.nm.gov or in-person at an ISD office. Call 800-283-4465 to find the nearest office or to ask questions about your application.
- Hospitals have to help you complete the EMSNC application. Call your hospital for support, for example:
- UNM Hospital Patient Financial Services - 505-272-2521
- Presbyterian Customer Care Center - 505-923-6600 or speak to a financial counselor at a Presbyterian Hospital
- Lovelace Health System Patient Financial Services - 505-727-0100

2. You have to get an EMSNC Referral for Eligibility Determination form (sometimes referred to as the “MAD 308” form) filled out by the hospital, and submit this to ISD as well. For example:

- UNM Hospital Patient Financial Services - 505-272-2521
- Presbyterian Patient Access Supervisor - 505-841-1946
- Lovelace Health System Eligibility Department - 505-724-2028
- Some hospitals, such as Albuquerque ER & Hospital, do not accept EMSNC.

3. If ISD approves your application, you have to take the approval letter to your hospital's financial services office to complete the process and make sure your bills are paid.

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What do you need to apply?

- It is a good idea to have your pay stubs with you, as well as your medical bills or documents. The application will ask questions about the people in your home, your income, and the date you received emergency medical services.
- You do not need to provide a social security number, birth certificate, or proof of immigration status. You do not have to answer questions about your immigration status.
- Before you can get benefits, ISD may need to get proof of some of the answers you gave, like a picture ID, proof of income, and proof that you live in New Mexico.

How will you know if you qualified?

You should receive a letter within 45 days of applying from the Human Services Department, Income Support Division.

- If your EMSNC application is approved, take the letter to your hospital's financial services office to complete the process.
- If your EMSNC application is denied, you will be responsible for making payments on the bill. Before you make payments, ask the hospital to check if you qualify for other charity programs or discounts.

Are there any immigration consequences?

No! The hospital or Medicaid program will not report information about you to Immigration officials. EMSNC will not be considered in any “public charge” evaluation and will not hurt your chances for getting lawful permanent residency (a “green card”).

Important things to know!

You have to apply for EMSNCM every time you get emergency care. You have 90 days after the date you received the emergency services to apply. After 90 days, you will no longer qualify.

Do you have questions or concerns?

Contact New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty at (505)255-2840 or contact@nmpovertylaw.org.