

Apple Health Data Privacy Client frequently asked questions

Apple Health (Medicaid) clients: Use these frequently asked questions (FAQ) to learn more about your privacy and how your information is shared.

For additional information, read the [announcement](#) or view the [partner and community FAQ](#).

What happened?

The Health Care Authority (HCA) sends personal information like your name, address, phone number, and the health care services you get to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS is the federal agency that runs Medicaid.

HCA believes but cannot confirm that this information has been shared with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). HCA learned about this from a [news story published on June 13, 2025](#).

Why did this happen?

The news story said CMS was told to give this information to DHS by leaders at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS oversees many health care programs across the country, and CMS is a part of HHS.

Whose personal information was shared?

HCA sends information to CMS for people who are enrolled in Apple Health programs that get federal funding. This includes Apple Health Expansion.

Right now, we do not know exactly what CMS shared with DHS. We are concerned that DHS may have personal information about most people who use Apple Health (Medicaid).

Can I protect my information by cancelling Apple Health?

No, cancelling your Apple Health coverage now will not take back the information already shared with CMS.

All states have been required to share this information with the federal government for many years.

Why does HCA share my information with CMS?

The federal government gives money to the state to help pay for Apple Health (Medicaid). To get this money, HCA is required by law to share information with CMS.

I have Apple Health Expansion coverage. Was my information shared?

Yes. If you are enrolled in Apple Health Expansion, your information was shared with CMS. Even though most Apple Health Expansion services are paid for by the state, federal dollars are used for emergency health care visits.

Was my immigration status shared with CMS?

HCA does not report specific, detailed immigration status information for individuals with CMS. For people enrolled in Apple Health Expansion, immigration status for almost everyone was reported as:

- 'Qualified non-citizen,' this refers to a person who is a non-citizen, who has been granted a specific immigration status, or
- An emergency services recipient, meaning you are eligible for emergency services under the Alien Emergency Medical Program, or
- Listed as 'other', meaning there is not another category that describes your immigration status.

How will this information be used by DHS?

We do not know how immigration information will be used. We are concerned it may be used for immigration enforcement.

What should I do if DHS uses my information for immigration enforcement?

If you are worried about immigration enforcement, visit the Washington State Office of the Attorney General's [Know Your Rights: Civil Immigration Enforcement in Washington webpage](#) to learn about your rights.

This website has information that can help you be prepared if you are contacted by immigration enforcement. You can translate the website into many languages using the tool on the left side of the screen or view translated Know Your Rights resources on page 3.

Can I opt out of sharing my information with the federal government?

No. If you have Apple Health coverage, HCA is required to share your information with the federal government. This is required by law. You cannot opt out.

You can choose to cancel your Apple Health coverage at any time. [Learn how to cancel your coverage online](#). Cancelling your Apple Health coverage now will not take back the information already shared with CMS.

How can I find out if my information was shared?

If you are enrolled in Apple Health, or you were enrolled in the past, your information has been shared with CMS, as required.

This includes people enrolled in or on the waitlist for Apple Health Expansion who got care through another Apple Health program.

Your information was not shared if you applied for Apple Health but were denied and never enrolled.

What are my options for health care coverage if I cancel Apple Health?

If you go to a hospital, you may qualify for help paying for care through [Washington's Charity Care Law](#). You can also get free or reduced care at a free clinic or Community Health Center.

How do I change my address or phone number?

Go to hca.wa.gov/report-a-change to learn how to update your contact information. Instructions are available in many languages.

HCA updates address changes once a month. Because we are required to submit monthly files to CMS, updated address information will eventually be sent to CMS after it is updated. CMS keeps all past information. This means they will continue to have access to both your old and new contact details.

How does the state protect my information?

HCA is required by state and federal laws to use or share your health information only for certain reasons.

HCA is taking steps to limit how much information is shared. For example, we no longer share most medical services (also called claims) information for people enrolled in Apple Health Expansion. We are still required to share Apple Health Expansion enrollment information, as well as data for claims for received emergency services, cancer or dialysis treatment, or post-transplant care. These services are supported by federal funds, so HCA must still report them.

HCA is looking for better ways to give people the care they need while sharing less data. We are working with the Governor's Office and other partners to make changes as soon as possible.

Should I still go to my medical appointments or pick up my prescriptions?

Yes. It's important to keep getting the care you need. We want you to feel safe getting the care you need. We are working with provider communities to help them understand your rights and continue to provide safe, accessible health care to everyone in Washington.

Who can I contact with questions and concerns about my privacy?

Public benefits and immigration

If you are worried about how using public benefits could affect you, talk to an immigration attorney. You can find free or low-cost legal help in Washington at immigrationlawhelp.org. This site helps low-income immigrants find trusted legal support.

For more information about how public benefits may affect your immigration status, visit [USCIS public charge processes and procedures](#).

Know your rights

If you are worried about DHS having your information, visit the Washington State Office of the Attorney General's [Know Your Rights: Civil Immigration Enforcement in Washington webpage](#). Click the languages below for translated resources.

[Amharic](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#) | [Chinese \(traditional\)](#) | [German](#) | [Hindi](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Khmer](#) | [Korean](#) | [Marshallese](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Russian](#) | [Samoan](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Where can I get more information?

To read more about how HCA protects your information, visit hca.wa.gov/apple-health-privacy.