

Medicaid for Emergency Services

Who can get coverage?

Medicaid for Emergency Services provides payment of health care costs for an eligible non-citizen who has experienced a medical emergency. Medicaid may cover emergency medical care for the following:

- children under age 19
- pregnant women
- a disabled adult
- a parent of a child under age 19

An emergency means a medical condition, including labor and delivery, which shows acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in one or more of the following:

- serious jeopardy to the patient's health;
- serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part.

Transplant-related services are not covered for non-citizens.

Are there income limits?

Noncitizens applying for Medicaid for Emergency Services must meet all other eligibility requirements for Medicaid (for example, a child under age six or a pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements for Healthy Start). However, if the applicant only meets the eligibility requirements for BadgerCare and does not qualify for any other Medicaid program, the applicant is not eligible for Medicaid for Emergency Services.

Eligibility is determined on an individual basis for the person who experienced the medical emergency or for the pregnant woman.

If a person is ineligible for Medicaid for Emergency Services for no other reason than because they are over income, the individual may be able to use the Medicaid Deductible feature to bring their income below the income limits they must meet to become eligible for coverage (see the Medicaid Deductible fact sheet).

Medicaid for Emergency Services coverage can be backdated up to three months preceding the month of application. Therefore, an applicant must sign and date an application as soon as possible to preserve the maximum backdating period possible.

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Applying for coverage

- Undocumented individuals need only to provide their birth date to apply.
- Individuals who are legally in the United States must provide a photocopy of their Alien Registration card when they apply.

Applying for or getting Medicaid will not affect a person's application to become a citizen of the United States.

Steps for applying

1. Complete the Family Medicaid/BadgerCare Application.
2. Mail, fax or deliver the application (applications can be taken over the phone, but the date of eligibility will be determined based on when the signed application is received at the county human or social service department, not the date of the phone request).
3. An individual or family can also apply in person at their county/tribal human or social service department, W-2 agency or Medicaid outstation site. Contact your local human or social service department for details.

What to do once accepted

Once an individual receives Medicaid coverage for Emergency Services, the individual must contact the hospital, clinic or doctor where they received care to give the provider the Medicaid ID number from the Positive Notice. A provider must have this ID number to bill the Medicaid program and get the outstanding bill paid.

What services are covered?

Medicaid will pay the health care cost from the time of the first treatment for the emergency until the condition is no longer an emergency. For pregnant women, Medicaid for Emergency Services will pay for the cost of the delivery. Medicaid for Emergency Services recipients do not receive a Forward card because coverage ends at the same time the emergency ends.



For help with coverage questions, call 1-800-585-4222 statewide / 261-6939 in Madison
ABC for Health provides free health benefits counseling to families anywhere in Wisconsin.
Benefits advocates will talk with you about health coverage options.