Frequently asked questions about the federal government sharing personal information

You may have heard news that the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may be sharing Medicaid data with immigration enforcement. We know this news has caused deep fear, frustration, and anger in many of our communities.

What kind of Medicaid information does CMS have?

CMS requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to report monthly about how Oregon uses federal funds for Medicaid services. OHA shares data with CMS about claims, health care visits, enrollment, and member eligibility. The report includes:

- Oregon Health Plan (OHP) member names, addresses, and dates of birth.
- Medicaid ID numbers.
- Social security numbers.
- Citizenship status.
- Medicaid eligibility due to immigration status (specific immigration status is not shared).
- These reports are part of a normal process and have been done in the past for federal administrations.

OHA reports currently include citizenship information, but does not show if someone qualifies for a program only because of their immigration status. This means CMS can see if someone is a U.S. or naturalized citizen or qualifies for Medicaid based on their immigration status.

OHA is continuing to review how to meet CMS reporting requirements while protecting people's personal information as much as possible.

I thought Healthier Oregon was funded with state money. Why would OHA need to report that information to CMS?

Most of Healthier Oregon is funded by the state; however, most emergency health visits are funded by the federal government. This is required by state law.

When Healthier Oregon members use emergency services, information may be shared with CMS.

What if I'm no longer enrolled in OHP or Healthier Oregon? Does CMS still have my information?

If you've used OHP or emergency services as a Healthier Oregon member, your personal information may have been shared with CMS. That means CMS may know your name, address, citizenship status, and whether your immigration status makes you eligible for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program as a non-citizen.

Should I cancel my OHP membership?

If you ever enrolled in OHP or used emergency services through Healthier Oregon, OHA may have shared your information with CMS. That means even if you cancel your membership, CMS may still have personal information about you. OHA is required to share data with CMS for five years after Medicaid coverage ends.

Is it safe to go to the doctor?

We understand you may be worried about CMS sharing your information with immigration enforcement.

OHA's mission is to make sure all people in Oregon have access to medical care so you can be healthy and thrive. If you choose not to use OHP for your medical needs, we recommend you talk with your health care provider about other options. If you are worried about your health, contact your health care provider.

What is OHA doing to protect people's personal information from misuse?

OHA only shares personal information with federal agencies when required by law. OHA follows all laws about sharing data and is reviewing how to meet CMS requirements, while protecting personal information as much as possible. The information shared may change over time as OHA works to balance legal requirements with member privacy.

Even when legal and operational rules are complicated, OHA's commitment to privacy does not change. Protecting personal information is a key part of public health and community safety.

OHA is carefully reviewing CMS data requests, and knows that Oregon can't control how CMS will use the data. Because of this, OHA is reviewing all legal and policy options to reduce the risk of data being misused.

Oregon joined a multistate lawsuit

Oregon joined a lawsuit to try to stop CMS from sharing protected Medicaid information with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or using the data for immigration enforcement.

A federal court ruled that, starting January 6, 2026, CMS may start sharing limited information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) about people who are not "lawfully residing" in the United States.

This means that CMS may share information about people who received federally funded Medicaid services and are not "lawfully residing" in the United States. This includes citizenship status, address, phone number, date of birth, and Medicaid ID number.

OHA will continue to look at all policy and legal options to protect people's personal information.

How can I stay informed or get help?

- Contact OHA with question or concerns at Ask.OHP@odhsoha.oregon.gov.
- Visit OHA's Monitoring Federal Changes and any Impacts on Oregon webpage.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement website has resources and news for immigrants and refugees in Oregon.
- OHP members, providers, and partners can visit the OHA Notice of Privacy Practices webpage.
- Visit the Equity Corps of Oregon website to see if you qualify for free legal counsel.
- If you see U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in your community, call the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) hotline,1-888-622-1510. Visit their website to learn more.
- The Oregon Law Center and Latino Network developed a packet to help families prepare for emergencies, including immigration detention.

- The National Immigration Law Center developed a resource library including guides, toolkits, policy briefs and more.
- The Oregon Department of Justice created the Sanctuary Promise Community Toolkit which shares important information about Oregon's Sanctuary Law and how to report violations.

OHA will continue to share updates. In the meantime, please reach out with questions and let us know how we can support you and your communities.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Office of Community Health and Engagement at community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov or 800-699-9075. We accept all relay calls.

External Relations Division
Communications

Phone: 800-699-9075
community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov

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