

**Don't stay away -  
Get informed about  
your right to visit  
the doctor.**

**A GUIDE TO LAWS THAT PROTECT  
YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION**

**Federal laws  
like HIPAA\*  
protect  
information  
given to  
medical  
providers  
that identifies  
patients.**

Medical providers must keep information that identifies patients confidential, even from ICE officers.

But, a patient's private information can be shared when:

- required by court order, subpoena, warrant, or administrative request.
- disclosure is needed to prevent a threat to someone's health and safety.
- the patient has escaped from detention or a correctional facility.
- the information shows evidence of criminal conduct that happened at the health facility.

# You have **total control** over when and where to share your personal information.

Normally, there is no need to share immigration status with any medical provider. A parent applying for health insurance for their children is not required to disclose their own immigration status.

Immigration status may be necessary to check eligibility for certain health insurance that is supported by the government, such as Medi-Cal, but the privacy of the information provided in applications for health insurance is also protected by federal law. You have total control over what you choose to share.

# ICE's own policy advises that ICE stay away from hospitals and doctors' offices.

ICE has a policy that advises ICE officers to first get permission from supervisors, if there is some special need to go to a “sensitive location” such as a hospital, doctor’s office, or school to arrest someone. Normally, you can expect ICE to stay away from those places.

**You have the  
power to  
advocate  
at hospitals and  
medical facilities**

You have the right to advocate for yourself and your family. You can ask your providers for their policies on immigrant patient information. You can work with your community to demand that your providers adopt strong privacy protections for immigrant patients.

**It's important for you and  
your family to stay healthy.**

Your health is important to you and your loved ones. It is important for the health of your entire community for you to get medical care, including preventative care and immunizations.  
**You have a right to live a healthy life.**

# The Community Division of **SEIU-UHW**

United Healthcare Workers West

SEIU-UHW Community members are a union of patients and working families committed to good jobs, healthcare that works, and a vote that counts.

To join and learn more about the Community Division, call 888-920-4517 and visit [www.seiu-uhw.org](http://www.seiu-uhw.org).

UNITED FOR  
*#HealthcareJustice*

\*The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) gives patients control over their medical information and sets boundaries on the use and release of health records.