

Public health care access

For people seeking asylum who do not have Medicare

People seeking asylum in Australia who do not have a Medicare Card can use public hospitals in NSW free of charge.

Each time you visit a hospital, please tell staff:

- your name and your date of birth
- your contact details
- that you are a person seeking asylum
- if you get support and health services from the International Health and Medical Service (IHMS) or a Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) provider.

You will need to give this information every time you visit a NSW public hospital. Hospitals are safe spaces to provide information. Staff are not allowed to share your personal information unless you say so.

Bring a document that shows you are seeking asylum. This will make sure that you do not have to pay at the hospital. Bring one or more of the following documents:

- Bridging Visa E, or Bridging Visa A or C
- Letter from the Department of Home Affairs, the Immigration Assessment Authority, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, or a Court (eg Federal Court) confirming your current visa status
- SRSS letter or IHMS card (the hospital might arrange for them to pay for your visit)
- Letter from a relevant health service such as NSW Refugee Health Service, other NSW Health refugee health program, or STARTTS
- Documentation from a legal representative such as the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS), Immigration Advice and Rights Centre or Legal Aid NSW
- Letter from the Asylum Seekers Centre, Australian Red Cross, House of Welcome, Jesuit Refugee Service, Life without Barriers, or Settlement Services International (SSI).

To help us take care of you:

- Bring any medical records you have
- Bring a list of any medications you take
- Bring a 'referral letter' with you, if you have one (not needed if it is an emergency)
- Let staff know if you need an interpreter, and what language you prefer. This is free.