

Date: November 26, 2019
To: Patient-Facing Departments
From: Berenice Nuñez Constant, Vice President of Government Relations
Re: Public Charge Patient Fact Sheet Distribution to Patients

Dear Clinic Administrators and Patient-Facing Department,

The federal government announced a Public Charge Final Rule on August 14, 2019, which was to go into effect on October 15, 2019. However, federal courts have recently issued multiple injunctions **temporarily blocking the rule from going into effect**. This means the rule has been halted for now and the current definition of public charge has not changed. We expect that the rulings will likely be appealed by the Justice Department. We will keep you apprised of any developments as they occur.

If the Public Charge Final Rule is implemented, it will change the definition of Public Charge by allowing additional public benefits to be considered in determinations for Legal Permanent Residency (Green Card). These public benefits include: Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), Federal Public Housing and Section 8 assistance, or cash assistance under SSI, TANF or similar state, local, or tribal programs. This is a very complex issue and its impact will vary on a case-by-case basis. However, we know that the release of this rule is creating fear and anxiety for our patients and community and we need your help.

On November 11th, you received an email from AltaMed Health Services with the subject line “Help Our Patients Understand that the Public Charge Rule has been BLOCKED” providing an update on the temporary injunction placed on the final rule. As a follow up to that communication, we are providing printed copies of the Patient Fact Sheet for distribution at your clinic.

Directions for Distribution of Patient Fact Sheet

1. Please read the Patient Fact Sheet in its entirety and let us know if you have any questions.
2. Display the Patient Fact Sheet in clinic waiting rooms and hand out to patients and community members at your clinic.
3. Actively distribute this fact sheet to patients who reference Public Charge or express fear in using their health care benefits.

*Important Note: **Please do not provide legal advice to our patients.** If you receive legal questions, please direct patients to the list of legal resources included in the Patient Fact Sheet. You may also direct patients to AltaMed.org/public-charge for additional information.*

We thank you for your support and for ensuring that all of our patients continue to receive quality care without exception! For additional information, please contact Rocio Gonzalez, Senior Policy Analyst, rocgonzalez@altamed.org (323) 895-9704