

# Health Care Reform: A Guide to the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

## Do you have health insurance?

**YES!**



If you already have health insurance and you are happy with it, **you can keep it!** Health Care Reform does not require you to change your health insurance if you are happy with it. However, you might be eligible to receive premium subsidies in Covered California if you do not have insurance through your employer.

**NO!**



If you are one of the millions of Californians without insurance, Health Care Reform will help you gain access to an affordable health plan that meets your needs. You may qualify for insurance based on your immigration status, family size, and household income.

## What health insurance options will you have in 2014?

The chart below shows what insurance options you might be eligible for in 2014. Eligibility is based on your household size and federal poverty level (annual income).

**Coverage Options Based on Federal Poverty Levels**

Household Size	100%	133%	250%	400%
1	\$11,490	\$15,282	\$28,725	\$45,960
2	\$15,510	\$20,628	\$38,775	\$62,040
3	\$19,530	\$25,975	\$48,825	\$78,120
4	\$23,550	\$31,322	\$58,875	\$94,200
5	\$27,570	\$36,668	\$68,925	\$110,280
6	\$31,590	\$42,015	\$78,975	\$126,360

You could be eligible for Medi-Cal.

You could be eligible to receive subsidies through Covered California.

## Where can I sign up?

You can sign up online, by mail, or over-the-phone  
Beginning October 1, 2013!

[www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com)

Toll-free Customer Service Center: 1-(800)-300-1506

## What are Medi-Cal & Covered California?

There are two options under Health Care Reform:

### Medi-Cal

In 2014, Medi-Cal will expand to cover more people. Individuals and families earning less than 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) will be eligible for Medi-Cal. Pregnant women up to 200% FPL and children in households up to 250% FPL will continue to be eligible for Medi-Cal.

### Covered California

Covered California is the state's new health insurance marketplace. Individuals and small employers can buy insurance through Covered California. People with incomes up to 400% FPL will be eligible for premium subsidies to help lower the cost of the monthly premiums. People with incomes up to 250% FPL will be eligible for cost-sharing subsidies to help lower the co-pays/deductibles. Covered California will allow you to easily compare health plans and enroll.

# How will Health Care Reform affect you in 2014?

## Choice & Affordability

Health Care Reform helps provide more options for health insurance at a more affordable price. In California, it helps to expand the Medi-Cal program to more individuals and provides assistance to help people pay for insurance through Covered California. Health Care Reform has helped make sure everyone receives the same minimum set of benefits, regardless of pre-existing conditions.

These benefits include:

- Preventative and wellness services and chronic disease management
- Hospitalization
- Emergency services
- Ambulatory patient services
- Prescription drugs
- Maternity and newborn care
- Mental health & substance use disorder services
- Rehabilitative & habilitative services and devices
- Laboratory services
- Pediatric services, including oral and vision care

More Californians will have more options for health insurance, and with Health Care Reform, it may be more affordable!

## A Healthier You

Health Care Reform makes it easier to get insurance. It is important to have health insurance so that you can:

1. Improve your health by allowing you to receive regular primary care check ups and preventive care services from a doctor.
2. Protect yourself and your family from high medical debt that can be caused by unexpected illness or injury.
3. Have the peace of mind and security of knowing that you are covered in case of an accident or an emergency.

## Individual Mandate

Starting on January 1, 2014, every U.S. citizen and legal resident must have health insurance. If you have health insurance, you fulfill the requirement. If you do not have insurance, can either enroll in Medi-Cal or shop for affordable coverage through Covered California. If you decide not to buy insurance, you will have to pay a penalty.

An individual can be exempt from paying the penalty fee if he/she has a financial hardship or a religious exemption. A financial hardship is when the most affordable option exceeds 8% of household income. There is also an exemption if the household income is below the tax-filing threshold. In this case the family will most likely qualify for Medi-Cal.

If you are not exempt, the tax penalty is:

- \$95 or 1% of income in 2014
- \$395 or 2% of income in 2015
- \$695 or 2.5% of income in 2016 and thereafter.

**Note:** You must pay the amount that is higher.