

# HB 318: Access to Health Care

December 2015



**Problems accessing health care? Contact our hotline at: (919) 526-0676**

## 1. Can I access my county health department now that HB 318 is in effect?

**YES!** All people have the right to receive treatment at the county health departments. Access to immunizations, testing for diseases like HIV or TB, and more are available to all without a photo ID. Some health departments might ask you to provide a photo ID, but they should not turn you away for treatment or testing if you don't have a photo ID.

## 2. Can I access a community health center now that HB 318 is in effect?

**YES!** Community health centers offer primary care such as physicals, immunizations, prenatal care, and treatment of diseases like diabetes, asthma, and more. Most community health centers in the state are private non-profit organizations. They are not affected by HB 318 at all. They should continue to accept whatever identifications they accepted before the law was in effect..

## 3. Can I access a private hospital or doctor's office now that HB 318 is in effect?

**YES!** Private hospitals and doctor's offices are not affected by HB 318 at all. They should continue to accept whatever identifications they accepted before the law was in effect.

All hospitals in the state are privately run except for UNC Hospital and ECU Physicians. Public hospitals should also not turn you away because you lack photo identification.

## 4. Can I access the pharmacy now that HB 318 is in effect?

**PROBABLY YES.** Most pharmacies are private companies and are not affected by HB 318 at all. However, there are other company rules and laws in place about distributing prescriptions, especially related to allergy medicines and narcotics. Some company rules may prevent people without U.S.-government ID from accessing the pharmacy. Not every private pharmacy has the same company rules; try a different pharmacy if the first one refuses to accept your ID.

## 5. Can I enroll myself or my children in Medicaid health coverage now that HB 318 is in effect?

**YES!** If you qualify for Medicaid. People are required to have certain types of valid immigration status to enroll in Medicaid. If you or your child has the right immigration status to qualify for Medicaid, you or your child should be able to enroll.

HB 318 does prohibit Department of Social Services from accepting a consular or local ID to enroll children in Medicaid. However, Medicaid accepts a wide variety of other documents to prove you reside in North Carolina (lease agreements, utility bills, school records, and many more).

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**IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS ACCESSING ANY HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
OR OBTAINING MEDICINES DUE TO LACK OF A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION,  
PLEASE CALL OUR HOTLINE AT:**

**(919) 526-0676**