

Alien Emergency Medical (AEM)

Assessment and treatment for COVID-19

Background

Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) is a program for individuals who have a qualifying medical emergency and:

- Do not meet citizenship or immigration status requirements or
- Are qualified individuals who have not met the 5-year bar

Qualifying emergencies include Emergency room visits, inpatient hospital stays, outpatient surgery, dialysis, cancer treatment and antirejection medications.

Program update

In response to the public health emergency surrounding the outbreak of [COVID-19](#), the Health Care Authority has filed [an emergency rule, WAC 182-507-0115](#), to include the assessment and treatment of COVID-19 as a qualifying emergency for AEM. Other updates include:

- The assessment and treatment of COVID-19 provided in any outpatient setting, such as office or clinic, telemedicine, online digital or telephonic services is considered a qualifying emergency.
- Additional services, including medications and respiratory services may be approved if the individual tests positive for COVID-19.
- Other services such as follow-up visits and medications may be covered as a precautionary measure for potential positive COVID-19 results.
- The [AEM fax cover sheet](#) includes COVID-19 in the Applying for Coverage section.

How to apply

The application for Alien Emergency Medical remains the same. Individuals have several options to apply for AEM coverage:

- **Online:** Visit [Washington Healthplanfinder](#)
- **Mobile app:** Download the [WAPlanfinder app](#)
- **Paper:** [Application for Health Care Coverage \(18-001P\)](#)
- **Phone:** 1-855-923-4633

For individuals who are an adult age 65 or older, blind, disabled, or need long-term services, apply for Apple Health Classic Medicaid coverage online through [Washington Connection](#) or by calling 1-877-501-2233.

These AEM updates are in place during the public health emergency related to COVID-19.