



Special Considerations and Planning Needs for Immigrants

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Medi-Cal: Under recent Medi-Cal expansion, individuals 50 years or age or older are eligible for complete/full-scope benefits regardless of immigration status

<p align="center"><u>Benefits available to Legal Permanent Residents who have had their green card less than 5 years</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Benefits that are available to Legal Permanent Residents who have had their green card 5 or more years</u></p>
<p>California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-funded food stamp and disability benefit <p>General Relief (GR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County-based cash assistance for extremely indigent individuals <p>Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-funded disability benefit <p>Medi-Cal</p>	<p>Medicare</p> <p>Social Security Disability benefits</p> <p>Section 8 Housing</p> <p>General Relief (GR)</p> <p>Medi-Cal</p>

NATURALIZATION

(Naturalization is the process to become a United States Citizen)

Basics

- At least 18 years old
- Permanent resident for at least 5 years
- Continuous physical presence in the United States for half of the last 5 years
- Good moral character for the last 5 years
- Pass Civics and English exams (or be exempted)

Benefits of Naturalization

- No renewals of status required
- Less travel restrictions
- Voting
- Ability to petition a broader category of family members
- Removal (deportation) considerations

Barriers to Naturalization

- Waiting period of green card holders
- Intimidating application process
 - Civics Test
 - English Exam

HOW A PROVIDER CAN ASSIST IMMIGRANT PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA IN THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS

One of the final steps in naturalization is an evaluation of English language and Civics requirement

Providers can help patients understand how their condition impacts their ability to learn a new language or retain information.

Cognitive decline might be making it difficult for a patient to learn to read, write, and speak English, as well as study, learn and memorize the civics questions.

Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions (USCIS Form N-648)

Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions (FORM N-648) is a form that a provider can use to inform the immigration department that the patient needs an accommodation to comply with the requirements for naturalization.

Must show that the applicant is unable to meet English of Civics test requirement because of a medically determinable, physical, or mental impairment (or combination), which has lasted or expected to last at least one year, and condition is not the result of illegal drug use.

TIPS FOR COMPLETING THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATION FOR DISABILITY EXCEPTIONS (USCIS FORM N-648)

Explain to a sixth grader the nature of the illness and/or disability. Clearly explain the diagnostic processed that were used and the expected duration of the condition

Explain the origins of the disability (and how it is not related to drug use)

Clearly and explicitly explain the specific symptoms associated with the disability that make it impossible for the patient to read, speak or write English or answer US Civics test

Your conclusion that the applicant cannot learn English and/or US Civics test