

2015 Health Insurance Checklist

2015 is the 2nd year that taxpayers are required to have health insurance or risk paying a penalty. The information your tax preparer needs depends on your situation.

Important Note: The following information is required for EVERYONE on your tax return (including spouses and children/dependents). If each person has a different situation then make sure to bring in ALL the information for each person.



Did you have health insurance in 2015?

If yes, determine what kind of insurance you had... different types require different information.

Did you buy health insurance from the state or federal exchange?

- If yes, then you will receive a form 1095-A in the mail (likely by Jan. 31st, 2016). If you changed plans during the year you may receive more than one 1095-A... bring them all.

Did you have any other type of insurance?

- If you received your insurance from an employer sponsored plan then you will likely receive documentation from your employer (or insurance provider) by Jan 31st, 2016. If you do receive documents (likely a form 1095-B or 1095-C) then bring them in.
- If you received your insurance from someplace other than the above (including Medicare, Medicaid, Medical Assistance, CHIP, Tri-Care, etc.) be prepared to answer a few simple questions:
 1. Was your coverage for 2015 for the **entire year**? If not, how long were the gaps?
 2. Was your coverage for **each person** on your tax return?

Most types of insurance provide “minimum essential” coverage, thus avoiding the tax penalty. Even some plans that DO NOT meet minimum essential coverage suffice if they are older plans (in place before the Affordable Care Act became law) that were “grandfathered”. Ask your plan provider if you think you may have a grandfathered plan (they are required to provide that information).

Did you NOT have health insurance in 2015?

If you (or anyone on your tax return) did not have insurance in 2015 then you have two choices:

1. **Pay the penalty:** This is the easiest option... requiring no documentation or information.
2. **Try to get an exemption:** This can be easy or difficult...start by visiting the following website:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/fees-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/>

The following is a list of a few common exemptions. Don't assume that you qualify. Talk to your tax professional first... there may be specific eligibility rules and documentation required.

- **Coverage is unaffordable:** Insurance premiums cost more than 8% of your household income
- **Gaps in coverage were short:** Gaps of 2 months or fewer (per person)
- **Not required to file a tax return:** For example, if your income was below the filing threshold
- **Citizens living abroad:** If you spent 330 days (or more) living outside the US
- **Illegal aliens and certain non-citizens:** If you were not lawfully present in the US
- **Members of a federally registered exempt group:** Including some Indian tribes, religious sects, and healthcare sharing ministries.
- **Incarcerated:** If you were in jail
- **And many more...** This is a very complicated subject. Talk to your tax professional!