



*California's Protection & Advocacy System
Toll-Free (800) 776-5746*

Medi-Cal Managed Care for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in Some Rural Counties

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WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES?

Seniors and persons with disabilities who have Medi-Cal as their health insurance will be required to transition to Medi-Cal managed care.

WHAT IS MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE?

Medi-Cal managed care is a new way to get Medi-Cal in many rural counties in California. Managed care is a system for providing and paying for health care services. Managed care means that you receive your health care from a managed care plan. A managed care plan is an organized network of health care providers that emphasizes primary and preventive care. Some, but not all, hospitals, physicians and other health care providers are members of the network.

WHAT CHANGES WILL HAPPEN?

You will have to choose a managed care plan and a primary care physician. If you don't choose, you will be assigned. You can choose between two managed care plans, Blue Cross or California Health and Wellness. The managed care plan will provide medical services currently covered by Medi-Cal. Some additional services may be offered as well. The plan may require that you get a referral from your primary care

provider before you can see certain specialists. In most cases, you can only see a provider who is not in the managed care plan's network if the plan gives you prior authorization.

WHERE WILL THE CHANGES HAPPEN?

Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Imperial, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, and Yuba Counties. Please note that this document applies only to these counties. The rules are a bit different in other counties.

WHEN WILL THE CHANGES HAPPEN?

December 1, 2014

WHY WILL THE CHANGES HAPPEN?

California started to require most Medi-Cal recipients to get managed care many years ago. Most Californians with Medi-Cal already have managed care. Most people in the above counties already have Medi-Cal managed care. But seniors and persons with disabilities in the above counties are some of the last people to start getting Medi-Cal managed care.

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED ABOUT THE CHANGES?

Letters and reminders are being sent in the summer and fall of 2014. You should also get a phone call reminding you about this change.

CAN I STAY OUT OF MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE?

Some people can stay out of Medi-Cal managed care.

- People who have both Medicare and Medi-Cal (Dual Eligibles) will not be required to enroll in Medi-Cal managed care at this time.
- People with serious illnesses or disabilities can apply for an exemption from managed care.

- People who have providers that don't accept managed care can ask to keep seeing their current providers for "continuity of care."

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Call the local county Medi-Cal office or Health Care Options at 1-800-430-4263. Visit www.healthcareoptions.org.

Also, Disability Rights California has helpful publications posted on our Health website, <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/PublicationsHealthBenefits.htm>. If you do not have access to the internet, please call us to ask for publications. You might find the following publications helpful:

- An Independent Medical Review (IMR) is One Way to Change a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan's No to Yes
- Medi-Cal Managed Care: "Continuity of Care"
- Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans: What are they? What do I need to know about them?

HOW CAN I GET HELP FROM DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA IF I HAVE A PROBLEM?

Disability Rights California provides advice and does advocacy for people with disabilities. Call 1-800-776-5746 or 800-719-5798 (TTY). Visit our website at www.disabilityrightsca.org

Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.