


Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants
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Subject: All Plan Letter 22-030: Initial Health Appointment

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 22-030](#), "Initial Health Appointment." We are sharing a summary of this APL with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

Beginning January 1, 2023, the Initial Health Appointment (IHA) described in APL 22-030 replaces the former Initial Health Assessment process as part of the Population Health Management program.

To support your efforts in this area, the Provider Education team at Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan created a quick, interactive tool: [Initial Health Appointment for Medi-Cal Members](#) clearly lays out IHA requirements for compliance. It includes a downloadable list of recommended codes for accurately documenting the IHA and links to additional support resources.

APL summary

- IHAs must be completed for all members and periodically readministered according to the [Population Health Management Policy Guide](#) and your managed care plan contract.
- An IHA must be performed by a provider in the primary care setting, unless the primary care physician (PCP) determines that the member's medical record is complete and up to date within the last 12 months.
- IHAs must be culturally and linguistically appropriate for each member and documented in the member's medical record.
- IHAs must include:
 - The member's physical and mental health history
 - Identification of risks
 - Assessment of need for preventative screens or services
 - Health education
 - Diagnoses and treatment plans for any detected diseases

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of APL 22-030 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-030.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have any IHA questions, you may email IHAMonitoring@blueshieldca.com or call our Provider Services Department at (800) 468-9935 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.