

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

January 2024

From: Melinda Kjer,
Director, Provider Relations and Contracting

Subject: **All Plan Letter 23-031: Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan Implementation of Primary Care Provider Assignment for the Age 26-49 Adult Expansion Transition**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 23-031](#), "Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan Implementation of Primary Care Provider Assignment for the Age 26-49 Adult Expansion Transition." 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.

APL 23-031 advises managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan to help individuals aged 26 to 49 who are transitioning into full Medi-Cal benefits maintain their existing primary care provider (PCP) assignments as much as possible.

APL summary

- Effective January 1, 2024, individuals aged 26 through 49 who do not have satisfactory immigration status are eligible to receive full Medi-Cal benefits.
- Individuals who qualify for the Age 26-29 Adult Expansion program should continue to receive services from their existing PCP when possible.
- While MCPs may use automated matching tools to help them assign PCPs to these new members, the member's choice of PCP takes precedence over any automatic matching process.
- MCPs may assign these members to their existing PCP even if the PCP has a "closed panel" or "not accepting new members" status, because the members were already included in their panel.
- To help maintain these PCP relationships, MCPs and county uninsured programs and public health care systems will need to share patient data, following HIPAA requirements for privacy and security.
 - MCPs only need to share the return file for members who elect to keep their PCP.
 - The APL includes file naming conventions and data elements to include in data sharing transmissions.
 - MCPs will receive the data through June 30, 2024, as needed to facilitate PCP assignments.
- After June 30, 2024, if the patient's PCP is not contracted with the network, the MCP is not required to maintain the PCP assignment.
- If the county or public health PCP is not in network, the MCP is advised to follow the current requirements for continuity of care contained in APL 23-022.

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 23-031 may be found at this URL:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/APL-23-031-Adult-Expansion.pdf>

(Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about applying a benefit to Blue Shield Promise members, please contact Blue Shield Promise Provider Services via Live Chat after logging in at www.blueshieldca.com/provider or call **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.