


Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

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Subject: **All Plan Letter 22-022: Abortion Services**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 22-022](#), "Abortion Services." 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 22-022 summarizes Medi-Cal requirements related to abortion services. The APL advises that managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan cover all medical services and supplies incidental or preliminary to an abortion.

Key information

- MCPs, network providers, and subcontractors may not require medical justification or impose utilization management or review requirements, including prior authorization and annual limits on outpatient abortion services. Non-emergency inpatient hospitalization for the performance of an abortion may require prior authorization.
- Minors may receive abortion services without parental consent.
- MCPs are advised to ensure confidentiality is respected.
- Members may go to any Medi-Cal provider they want for abortion services, regardless of network affiliation.
- No MCP may require a provider or practitioner to perform or participate in an abortion, and no one may be penalized for refusing to perform or participate in abortion services.
- MCPs will help members find an alternate provider should a provider decline to perform an abortion, and MCPs will ensure members have timely access to abortion services.
- The APL also explains requirements for clean claims and out-of-network reimbursement.

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 22-022 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-022.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

Please direct questions about serving Blue Shield Promise members to our Provider Services Department at (800) 468-9935 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.