



601 12th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

April 22, 2026

Subject: Notification of July 2026 updates to the Blue Shield *HMO Benefit Guidelines Manual*

Dear Provider:

Blue Shield is revising the *HMO Benefit Guidelines Manual* (Manual). The changes in each benefit guideline section listed below are effective July 1, 2026.

On that date, you can search and download the revised manual on Provider Connection at www.blueshieldca.com/provider in the *Provider Manuals* section under the *Guidelines & Resources* tab.

You may also request a PDF version of the revised *HMO Benefit Guidelines Manual* be emailed to you once it is published by emailing providermanuals@blueshieldca.com.

The *HMO Benefit Guidelines Manual* is included by reference in the agreement between Blue Shield of California (Blue Shield) and those IPAs and medical groups contracted with Blue Shield. If a conflict arises between the *HMO Benefit Guidelines Manual* and the agreement held by the IPA or medical group and Blue Shield, the agreement prevails.

If you have any questions regarding this notice about the revisions that will be published in the July 2026 version of this Manual, please contact your Blue Shield Provider Relations Coordinator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberli Robinson".

Kimberli Robinson
Vice President, Network Operations

blueshieldca.com

Updates to the July 2026
HMO Benefit Guidelines Manual

Acupuncture, Acupuncture and Chiropractic Optional Benefits, and Chiropractic Services Optional Benefits

Changed American Specialty Health Group, Inc. to American Specialty Health Plan.

Ambulatory Surgery Procedures

Deleted codes 0272T and 0273T.

Gynecological Examinations

Updated the name of one of the references.

Hospice Care

Updated to add exclusions, limitations (adding CalPERS specific language) and examples of non-covered services.

Newborns

Updated to add CalPERS-specific section.

Orthoses

Added clarifying language from the *Evidence of Coverage* (EOC).

Physician Services

Updated covered services for nutritional counseling to align with the EOC.