

## Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

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From: Manuel T.G. Enriquez   
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Subject: **All Plan Letter 23-004: Skilled Nursing Facilities -- Long Term Care Benefit Standardization and Transition of Members to Managed Care**

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The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 23-004](#), "Skilled Nursing Facilities -- Long Term Care Benefit Standardization and Transition of Members to Managed Care." 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 23-004 supersedes APL 22-018, which similarly focused on how managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health plan will administer the Long Term Care (LTC) benefit to members in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

### Key details

- Effective January 1, 2023, most LTC members receiving SNF services were required to enroll in an MCP. Going forward, members in need of SNF services will remain enrolled in their MCP instead of being transitioned to a Fee for Service (FFS) plan.
- Prescription drugs will be billed according to claim type – pharmacy claims will be paid by Medi-Cal Rx and medical or institutional claims will go to the MCP.
- The APL includes requirements for leaves of absence, bed holds, continuity of care, treatment authorizations, and facility payments.
- Each MCP will implement a population health management program that includes all Medi-Cal managed care members, including those receiving SNF services.

### Updated requirements

- **Care for the Developmentally Disabled** – Members receiving institutional LTC services in a Subacute Care Facility or Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) must be enrolled in an MCP by January 1, 2024 (formerly July 1, 2023).
- **Transportation** – The APL advises MCPs to ensure members receiving LTC are engaged with their assigned primary care providers, including arranging transportation.
- **Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)** – Prior to admission to a facility, individuals must be assessed for serious mental illness and/or intellectual/developmental disability or related conditions.
- **Transitional Care Services (TCS)** – MCPs should complete all TCS tasks for affected members by January 1, 2024.

- **Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Liaison** – The APL advises MCPs to identify an individual or team who will serve as the primary point of contact for LTSS providers. (Blue Shield Promise will identify our LTSS liaison at a future date.)

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 23-004 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-004.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

Additional information about Blue Shield Promise’s implementation of this APL will be forthcoming.

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.