

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

March 2024

From: Melinda Kjer
Director, Provider Relations and Contracting

Subject: All Plan Letter 23-023: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities -- Long Term Care Benefit Standardization and Transition of Members to Managed Care

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 23-023](#), "Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities -- 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.

As part of the CalAIM benefit standardization initiative, APL 23-023 establishes long-term care for people with developmental disabilities as a benefit covered by managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan.

Previously, Medi-Cal members who did not have a county organized health system that covered intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF/DD) received these services through the Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) delivery system. Beginning January 1, 2024, these members will be transitioned to Medi-Cal managed care.

APL summary

- Effective January 1, 2024, MCPs must provide all medically necessary covered services for Medi-Cal members who live in ICF/DD homes. These include home, professional, and ancillary services, transportation, and care coordination.
- Members with other health care may continue to use those benefits, with Medi-Cal being the payor of last resort. While Medicare does not cover ICF/DD home benefits, dual enrolled members may continue to receive other Medicare benefits.
- APL 23-023 advises MCPs to contract with and maintain a network of ICF/DD homes, as well as various provider types who serve ICF/DD residents.
- The APL includes guidance for managing leaves of absence, bed holds, continuity of care, and authorization requests.
- APL 23-023 establishes payment requirements for ICF/DD home services.
- MCPs will coordinate with Regional Centers to avoid duplication of work in the areas of population health management, transitional care services, care coordination, and community supports.

Resources

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Intermediate-Care-Facility-for-Developmentally-Disabled-ICF-DD-Long-Term-Care-Carve-In.aspx>

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself for additional information. The full text of APL 23-023 may be found at this URL:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-023.pdf>

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

If you have questions about applying ICF/DD benefits to Blue Shield Promise members, please contact:

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Our team is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.