

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

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Subject: **All Plan Letter 22-028: Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 22-028](#), "Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health 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 22-028 introduces standardized adult and youth screening tools to guide referrals to mental health services either provided by a managed care plan (MCP) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan or a county mental health plan (MHP). The adult screening tool is for members ages 21 and older, while the youth screening tool is for members under the age of 21. The transition of care tool supports transitions between MCP and county MHP services for members of all ages.

Key information

- Effective January 1, 2023, standardized [adult and youth screening tools and transition of care tools](#) are available for MCPs and county MHPs.
- MCPs are not required to use the screening tools when members contact mental health providers directly to request services.
- Completion of a screening tool is not considered an assessment. Once a member is referred to an MCP or county MHP, they must receive an assessment from a provider to determine medically necessary mental health services.
 - Note that these screening tools are not for provider use. When members are referred to you, please assess their needs using assessment tools recommended by DHCS.
- These tools do not replace an MCP's current protocols for emergency or crisis referrals, access to care, clinical assessments, level of care determinations, service recommendations, or requirements to provide early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT).

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 22-028 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-028.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.