

Medi-Cal

What Services Does Medi-Cal Pay For?

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid Program. Medi-Cal pays for "medically necessary" services, such as physician visits, lab tests, hospital care, home health care, prescription drugs, and medical equipment/devices.

The State Department of Health Care Services serves Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are seniors and people with disabilities through Medi-Cal Health Care Plans. In order for Medi-Cal to pay for covered services, patients must use the appropriate Medi-Cal providers.

If the client has a managed care plan (e.g., LA Care, HealthNet), s/he must use providers within that network. As of June 2011, all MediCal beneficiaries including people with disabilities must join managed care (1115 Waiver), with a few exceptions. MediCal beneficiaries who are exempt from joining managed care include those who also have Medicare (dual eligibles), those with other health insurance, those with share of cost MediCal, those who are in ICFs/SNFs, foster children, children who also have CCS and live in Alameda, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties. *Those who will not be required to join MediCal managed health plans at this time include people who also have Medicare in addition to Medi-Cal (aka Medi/Medi, or dual eligible), people who have private or other health insurance, people with "share of cost" MediCal, people residing in Intermediate Care and Skilled Nursing Care, foster children, and children who also have California Children's Services (CCS) coverage in Alameda, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. long-term care or institutional settings, and people who participate in certain home and community-based waiver programs.

The State of California Department of Health Services website provides [a directory of dentists who accept DentiCal](#), searchable by county, which is updated weekly. See also HRC area dental resources on our HRC website under Resources/Health and Wellness/Health Resources.

Medi-Cal covered services were reduced in 2009. Find answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding benefits which are no longer covered by Medi-Cal (such as acupuncture, chiropractic, hearing exams, podiatry, psychology, and speech therapy services at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/ReductionMedi-CalBenefits.aspx>

Health Care Services will also respond to questions at **(916) 636-1980**. Call **(800) 322-6384** for questions about dental benefits. A MediCal recipient must have their Benefit Identification Card (BIC) number ready before calling these numbers.

