



# News Release

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## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES LAUNCHES COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE**

Sacramento, CA – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Director Toby Douglas today announced the official launch of the state's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) in the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and San Mateo. Cal MediConnect, a program created by the CCI, will now integrate health care and other services to improve health outcomes for individuals with both Medi-Cal and Medicare coverage.

In San Mateo County, the CCI launch enrolled 3,200 Medi-Cal members into the Health Plan of San Mateo's Cal MediConnect plan. About 300 other members in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties also voluntarily opted into Cal MediConnect coverage on Monday. Another 48,000 members are now benefitting from the CCI by being able to receive their Managed Medi-Cal Long-Term Services and Supports through their health plans.

"On April 1, we achieved an important milestone for the Coordinated Care Initiative," said Director Douglas. "Members are now receiving Cal MediConnect coverage that can better integrate their health care and other supportive services. This will help more Californians with complex health care needs remain in their homes and communities and have a higher quality of life."

To help ensure that members can find the information they need and address any concerns, DHCS also launched the Cal MediConnect Ombudsman Program on April 1, which will be operated by local organizations chosen for their high level of experience providing ombudsman services. This program will be an important consumer protection for all Cal MediConnect enrollees, in addition to existing appeals and grievance procedures available to Medi-Cal members.

The CCI will gradually be implemented in eight counties. In addition to the five that launched this week, Orange, Alameda and Santa Clara counties will also participate. Of the estimated 456,000 members eligible in the eight counties, approximately 200,000 will participate in Los Angeles County.

During the phased implementation of Cal MediConnect, members who are eligible will receive three notifications with informational letters, which are sent 90, 60 and 30 days prior to the effective date of enrollment. They may select a health plan for Cal MediConnect services, they may opt out of Cal MediConnect or they may choose a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly plan if one is available. If they opt out, their Medicare will stay the way it is now. Their Medi-Cal benefits will also still be available through a Medi-Cal managed care health plan, and they can choose which plan they desire for those benefits.

Passive enrollment for Cal MediConnect in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties will begin in May. Los Angeles County began voluntary Cal MediConnect enrollment on April 1 and will begin passive enrollment in July. Alameda, Orange and Santa Clara counties will begin passive enrollment in Cal MediConnect no sooner than January 2015.