

California Department of Health Care Services

Enrolling in Medi-Cal Managed Care Under California's New Waiver

Under California's new waiver, more Medi-Cal beneficiaries including seniors and people with disabilities will enroll in Medi-Cal managed care plans. If you are enrolling in a managed care plan for the first time, Medi-Cal will help you choose a plan and make sure that your new plan understands your health care needs.

Enrolling in a Managed Care Plan

Understanding Medi-Cal managed care. Before you enroll in a new managed care plan, Medi-Cal will provide you with information on the Medi-Cal managed care system, your plan choices, and your plan's responsibilities to you.

Choosing your managed care plan. If you are a Medi-Cal beneficiary signing up for a managed care plan for the first time, you will be able to select the plan you want from the choices offered through Medi-Cal in your county. Your county may offer an additional plan, which you are also free to choose. If you do not choose a plan, Medi-Cal will assign you to a plan. Medi-Cal will try to match you with a plan that includes your current health care provider.

Getting your questions answered. Health Care Options is a company that works with Medi-Cal to help beneficiaries choose their managed care plans. Health Care Options can answer your questions about the health plans available in your county and the health care providers available in each health plan.

Transitioning into your New Plan

Keeping your health care provider. If your provider works with a managed care plan in your county, you will be able to choose that plan. If your provider does not work with any of the plans in your county, you can keep your provider while you move to your new health plan. If you are under active treatment with your current provider, you can stay with that provider for up to 60 days after you enroll in your new health plan.

Moving into your new managed care plan. Current Medi-Cal beneficiaries will be enrolled in managed care over 12 months beginning in February 2011. If you are moving to managed care, you will enroll in a plan during your next Medi-Cal redetermination.

Meeting your health care needs. When you enroll in managed care, your new plan will ask you about your health and the care you have been receiving. This will help the plan understand your needs and make sure you get the right services for you. Depending on your needs, your health care provider may work with you to develop a formal plan for your care.