

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM TRANSITION TO MEDI-CAL: BENEFITS COMPARISON

Background

As part of the Governor's 2012-13 Budget, Healthy Families Program (HFP) subscribers will transition to the Medi-Cal program beginning January 1, 2013. HFP is California's version of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which was created by the U.S. Congress in 1997. Approximately 875,000 HFP subscribers will transition to the Medi-Cal program over four phases.

Benefit Impacts

HFP and Medi-Cal have nearly equivalent health benefits with a few exceptions. The main difference is that a Medi-Cal eligible child under the age of 21 has access to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program through which the child can receive benefits for "medically necessary" services that are otherwise limited (such as by frequency) or not covered by Medi-Cal in order to correct or ameliorate a condition.

For purposes of mental health services, HFP enrollees that are seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) and are currently receiving services from a county mental health plan may continue to receive services from the county as Medi-Cal beneficiaries as long as they meet medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services. The former SED criteria will no longer be used to determine eligibility to receive county mental health plan provided mental health services. The State anticipates that most children that met the SED criteria in the HFP will also meet medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal specialty mental health services, but they will need to be re-assessed to make that determination. Children transitioning from HFP to Medi-Cal will be eligible to receive the full array of Medi-Cal/EPSDT specialty mental health services, consistent with their mental health needs and when the child meets medical necessity criteria.

Because of the EPDST requirements, for some subscribers the Medi-Cal benefits may be more comprehensive than HFP.

ELIGIBILITY	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Age limit of a child	Up to age 19 ¹	Up to age age 21
HEALTH BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Acupuncture	20 visits/benefit year ²	2 visits/month
Biofeedback	Covered ³	Covered
Blood and Blood Products	Covered	Covered
California Children's Services (CCS) Program Services	Covered	Covered
Cataract Spectacles and Lenses, Cataract Contact Lenses	Covered	Covered
Chiropractic Services	20 visits/benefit year ⁴	2 visits/month
Clinical Cancer Trials	Covered	Covered
Diabetic Care	Covered	Covered
Diagnostic, X-Ray and Laboratory Services	Covered	Covered
Durable Medical Equipment	Covered	Covered
Emergency Health Care Services	Covered	Covered

¹ Currently under the Healthy Families Program, once a child turns 19, s/he is referred to Medi-Cal for a determination under the Medically Needy program which may include being assessed for share-of-cost Medi-Cal.

² Not all health plans provide this option.

³ Not all health plans provide this option.

⁴ Not all health plans provide this option.

HEALTH BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Family Planning Services	Covered	Covered
Health Education	Covered	Covered
Hearing Aids	Covered	Covered ⁵
Hearing Testing	Covered	Covered ⁶
Home Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Hospice	Covered	Covered
Inpatient Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment	Covered	Covered
Inpatient Hospital Services	Covered	Covered
Inpatient Mental Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Maternity Care	Covered	Covered
Medical Transportation Services	Covered	Covered
Organ Transplants	Covered	Covered
Orthotics and Prosthetics	Covered	Covered
Outpatient Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment	Covered	Covered ⁷
Outpatient Hospital Services	Covered	Covered
Outpatient Mental Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Phenylketonuria Testing and Treatment	Covered	Covered
Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy	Covered	Covered
Prescription Drugs	Covered	Covered
Preventive Health Care Services	Covered	Covered
Professional Services	Covered	Covered
Reconstructive Surgery	Covered	Covered
Skilled Nursing Care	100 days/year	Covered
DENTAL BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Crown and Fixed Bridge	Covered	Covered
Dental Anesthesia and Palliative Care	Covered	Covered
Dental Emergency	Covered	Covered
Diagnostic and Preventive Care Services	Covered	Once every 6 months per provider
Endodontic	Covered	Covered
Oral Surgery	Covered	Covered
Orthodontia Services	Only Covered through CCS Program	Covered
Periodontics	Covered	Covered
Prophylaxis Services	Twice every 12 months	Once every 6 months
Removable Prosthetics	Covered	Covered
Restorative Dentistry	Covered	Covered
VISION BENEFITS	Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
Contact Lenses	Once every 12 months	Covered ⁸
Eye Examinations	Once every 12 months	Once every 24 months
Frames and Lenses	Once every 12 months	Once every 24 months
Low Vision - Severe Vision Problems	Covered	Covered

⁵ Prior authorization required.

⁶ Provided through California Children Services (CCS) Program.

⁷ Provided through the Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Program.

⁸ Prior authorization required.