

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Our Journey to a Healthier California for All

CalAIM is a long-term commitment to transform Medi-Cal, making the program more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered to help people maximize their health and life trajectory. The success of CalAIM will be a model for transformation of the entire health care sector.

Everyone benefits from a better Medi-Cal. Many of us know someone who depends on it for health coverage.

- One in three Californians.
- More than half of California's school-age children.
- Half of California births.
- More than two in three patient days in California long-term care facilities.

CalAIM

- Puts people's needs at the center of care.
- Provides coordinated support to meet each Medi-Cal enrollee's physical, developmental, behavioral, and dental health needs as well as long-term services and health-related social supports.
- Shifts Medi-Cal to a population health approach, prioritizing prevention, addressing social drivers of health, and transforming services for communities who historically have been under-resourced and faced structural racism in the health care system.
- Includes specific initiatives on equity designed to provide equal access to health and well-being for individuals transitioning from incarceration to community re-entry, from homelessness to housing, and from institutional to home-based care.
- Works to align funding, data reporting, quality, and infrastructure to mobilize and incentivize progress toward common goals.
- Reduces variation across counties and plans, while recognizing the importance of local innovation and supports, community activation, and engagement.

Faces of CalAIM: Meet Ana and Maria

Ana is 27 years old and has schizophrenia and a substance use disorder. She was living on the street, got pregnant, and went to live with her sister, Maria. In the current Medi-Cal system, Maria manages Ana's care, medications, and is the go-between for mental health and substance use disorder providers, and Ana's OB/GYN. Maria is struggling to figure out how to get the specialized care her sister needs, and the time and effort needed to manage this responsibility is taking a toll on Maria's health and other family members.

Through CalAIM, Ana will get better support through her health plan, including an Enhanced Care Manager who will help communicate with her providers and arrange for services, including transportation to appointments, medication-assisted treatment, and case conferences with her OB/GYN. Ana's Enhanced Care Manager will help her connect to Community Supports, including housing assistance, and local organizations that assist with baby supplies to help the family live independently.



Population Health Management

Managed care plans will be required to implement a whole-system, person-centered strategy that includes assessments of each enrollee's health risks and health-related social needs, focuses on wellness and prevention, and provides care management and care transitions across delivery systems and settings.

Enhanced Care Management

Enhanced Care Management is person-centered care management provided to the highest-need Medi-Cal enrollees, primarily through in-person engagement where enrollees live, seek care, and choose to access services.

Community Supports (also known as “In Lieu of Services”)

Medi-Cal managed care plan partners will begin offering “Community Supports,” such as housing supports and medically tailored meals, which will play a fundamental role in meeting enrollees' needs for health and health-related services that address social drivers of health including food insecurity and social support.

New Dental Benefits

CalAIM will expand key dental benefits statewide, including a tool to identify risk factors of dental decay, and silver diamine fluoride for children and certain high-risk populations. Statewide pay-for-performance initiatives will reward dental providers for focusing on preventive services and continuity of care.

Behavioral Health Delivery System Transformation

DHCS will strengthen the state's behavioral health continuum of care for all Californians and promote better integration with physical health care. CalAIM will streamline policies to improve access to behavioral health services, simplify how these services are funded, and support administrative integration of mental illness and substance use disorders treatment.

Services and Supports for Justice-Involved Adults and Youth

These initiatives help California address poor health outcomes and disproportionate risk of illness and accidental death among justice-involved Medi-Cal eligible adults and youth as they re-enter their communities.

Transition to Statewide Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans and Managed Long-Term Services and Supports

CalAIM will expand statewide a special kind of managed care plan that coordinates all Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits in one plan for enrollees who are eligible for both programs. CalAIM will also transition Medi-Cal to statewide managed long-term services and supports for dual eligible enrollees to better coordinate care, simplify administration, and provide a more integrated experience.

Standard Enrollment with Consistent Managed Care Benefits

To improve each enrollee's experience, CalAIM will expand the use of managed care plans and standardize benefits so that each enrollee will have access to a consistent set of services, no matter where they live.

Delivery System Transformation

CalAIM will explore other ways to improve care, including developing a long-term plan of action for foster youth; seeking a federal waiver for short-term residential treatment for enrollees with a Serious Mental Illness or Serious Emotional Disturbance; and piloting full integration of physical health, behavioral health, and dental health in one managed care plan.

