

NEWS RELEASE



MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS FOR NEW CALIFORNIA MEDICARE-MEDI-CAL PLANS

SACRAMENTO — The Medicare open enrollment period marks the beginning of enrolling Californians into new Medicare-Medi-Cal (Medi-Medi) plans, which provide more comprehensive care to individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal. Medicare open enrollment will run from October 15 to December 7, with plan coverage taking effect on January 1, 2023.

As part of the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, the new plans will help ensure that benefits covered by both Medicare and Medi-Cal are coordinated by one health plan to reduce fragmentation and improve care for a population that often has multiple chronic conditions and many care providers.

“California is leading the nation in offering integrated health care options through federal Medicare partnerships, and our new Medi-Medi plans will coordinate all health care services for members who need them the most,” said DHCS Director Michelle Baass. “These plans address the specialized needs of dual eligible members and make it easier for them to receive care, both of which have been shown to lead to more positive health outcomes.”

Californians enrolled in both Medicare and Medi-Cal often have high rates of chronic conditions, functional impairments, social needs, and health disparities compared to members who only have Medicare or Medi-Cal coverage. These members often report being in poor health and have high rates of care utilization, yet they must navigate multiple delivery systems across Medicare and Medi-Cal to receive the care they need, which can be challenging for members and their caregivers.

Medi-Medi plans are a major part of CalAIM, California's long-term commitment to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal with a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing health and life trajectory. The new plans will improve care for this vulnerable population by providing Medicare Part A, B, and D services, specialized care coordination, and wrap-around Medi-Cal services, which are Medi-Cal benefits that Medicare doesn't cover, such as transportation to medical appointments and Community Services and Enhanced Care Management under CalAIM.

“Medi-Medi plans will integrate and coordinate vital care for members across both programs that isn't available in just regular Medi-Cal or other types of Medicare Advantage plans,” said Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for DHCS and State Medicaid Director. “This integration of care is foundational to CalAIM and will help improve health outcomes, member satisfaction, and positive experiences for care providers.”

Medi-Medi plans will coordinate all benefits and services across both programs, including:

- All Medicare-covered services, including medical providers, hospitals, prescription drugs, labs, and X-rays.
- All Medi-Cal covered services, including long-term services and supports, durable medical equipment, and medical transportation.
- Additional supplemental benefits over and above Original Medicare and Medi-Cal.
- Coordination with carved-out benefits, such as In-Home Supportive Services and Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services provided by the counties.
- One care management team to coordinate care and help a member manage the services they need.
- Community supports, including personal care/homemaker services and environmental accessibility adaptations (home modifications) when offered by the Medi-Cal managed care plan.

Through Medi-Medi plans, members will receive:

- Integrated materials, such as a single health plan card and one phone number to call for both Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits, leading to reduced administrative burden.
- Care coordination, including a unified Health Risk Assessment, a person-centered individualized care plan, and an interdisciplinary care team that includes their Medicare, Medi-Cal, and carved-out service providers.
- Continuity of care so they can continue to see their provider for up to 12 months in most cases, even if they are not in the health plan's provider network.

“As California’s aging population continues to grow, it’s essential to develop new programs and service delivery methods to address the needs of older individuals,” said Susan DeMarois, Director of the California Department of Aging. “The streamlined care provided by the new Medi-Medi plans will benefit older Californians, their caregivers, and their families, ultimately improving their quality of life.”

Medi-Medi plans will be initially offered in seven counties – Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, and Santa Clara – by the managed care plans that currently offer Cal MediConnect. During the 2022 Medicare open enrollment period, dual eligible members will have the option to voluntarily join a Medi-Medi plan, with a start date of January 1, 2023, if they live in one of the seven counties. Medi-Medi plans will be available to dual eligible members statewide by 2026.

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For more information, visit the below links:

[Medi-Medi Plan Fact Sheet](#)

[Outreach Information about Medicare Medi-Cal Plans](#)

[2023 Medi-Medi Plan List](#)

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CONTACT: [DHCS Office of Communications](#), (916) 440-7660

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