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CONTACT: Norman Williams
(916) 440-7660
www.dhcs.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA DELIVERS MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE SERVICES TO 28 RURAL COUNTIES, COMPLETING STATEWIDE EXPANSION

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Director Toby Douglas today announced that the state has completed the expansion of Medi-Cal managed care services to more than 274,000 Medi-Cal members in 28 rural counties, bringing Medi-Cal managed care to all of California’s 58 counties.

The expansion comes at a critical time. The state’s Medi-Cal program is preparing to enroll between one million and two million newly eligible individuals as a result of the Affordable Care Act. With managed care now available statewide, these new Medi-Cal members will have a medical home to coordinate all of their health care needs and a primary care physician to better manage their health conditions.

“This is an important day for California as we continue our march to expand coverage and benefits to more Californians in need,” said Douglas. “Because of our strong partnerships with these counties and our managed care plans, we are able to provide a more coordinated system of care that will help ensure quality health care is available to our members.”

The 2012-13 state budget authorized the expansion of Medi-Cal managed care to rural California counties, where members previously received services on a fee-for-service (FFS) basis. On September 1, more than 102,000 members transitioned to managed care in eight northern counties – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity – where they are members of Partnership HealthPlan of California.

On November 1, more than 172,000 members transitioned in 20 counties – Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Imperial, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne and Yuba. The available health plans, depending upon the county, are Anthem Blue Cross, California Health and Wellness Plan, Kaiser and Molina.

“Managed care increases patient satisfaction and delivers higher quality care and more positive health outcomes,” said Douglas. “Connection to a medical home also reduces emergency room and inpatient visits and promotes better self-management of chronic conditions.”

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