

Article 1 of 5 in Our Cal MediConnect Series

The following is the first in a series of articles about Cal MediConnect that Hershey Cause Communications has developed for physicians, specialists and other health care providers serving in Los Angeles County.

Cal MediConnect: Improving Care for California's Most Vulnerable Patients

The reformation of America's health care system is rapidly taking place across the country. The aim of these structural and care management changes is both to improve quality of care and contain costs. Here in California, the most recent major program to be launched is California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), which started in Los Angeles County on April 1 of this year.

Two Parts to the Coordinated Care Initiative

The CCI brings about two changes in the way health care is delivered. First, Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) will transition from a Medi-Cal fee-for-service benefit to a Medi-Cal health plan benefit requiring most Medi-Cal beneficiaries to join a health plan to continue to receive Medi-Cal benefits, including MLTSS.

The second part is Cal MediConnect, which provides the option for older, low-income residents who qualify for both Medicare and Medi-Cal (dual eligible patients) to receive all of their benefits from one single, coordinated health plan. In Los Angeles County, there are five Cal MediConnect health plans from which to choose: L.A. Care Health Plan, Health Net, Care1st Health Plan, CareMore and Molina.

How Physicians and Patients Benefit from Cal MediConnect

Historically, patients enrolled in both Medicare and Medi-Cal have suffered from fragmented services resulting from multiple funding sources and uncoordinated delivery of medical, long-term care, home- and community-based, and behavioral health services.

By blending Medicare and Medi-Cal into one complete, coordinated health plan, patients will benefit from stronger care coordination, health-system navigation support, and a dedicated care team. Perhaps most importantly, they will have access to a care manager who is focused on meeting their individual medical needs. In addition, patients and physicians will benefit from having medical care, prescription medications, mental health and behavioral health care, managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) and social services all coordinated by one health plan.

For physicians, participation in Cal MediConnect may also offer you greater financial and administrative stability through regular capitated payments from a single payer, with one telephone number for questions and assistance.

To find out more about the program and how to participate, please visit www.calduals.org. You can also visit www.calmediconnectla.org or call 1-888-522-1298 for more information.

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