

January 18, 2023

Primary Care Providers: Here's What to Look for in 2023

Dear primary care provider,

Over the past year the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) sent several all-plan letters relevant to changes in 2023 that would impact primary care. Here's a summary of some of those upcoming changes we thought were particularly of interest to the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) providers:

- Primary care clinicians may be surveyed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on challenges in taking **intimate partner violence (IPV) screenings and referrals**. The target audience is primary care clinicians who treated adult (18 years of age or older) Medicaid enrollees in 2021. Learn more about this survey here:
<https://oig.hhs.gov/surveys/intimate-partner-violence-screening-and-referrals-survey/>
- The **Initial Health Assessment (IHA)** was renamed "Initial Health Appointment," and as of 01/01/2023, the Staying Healthy Assessment (SHA) requirement has been eliminated. An initial appointment within 90 days of panel assignment is still required and must include a history of the member's physical and behavioral health, an identification of risks, an assessment of need for preventive screens or services and health education, and the diagnosis and plan for treatment of any diseases. Read more about this requirement here:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-030.pdf>
- Primary care providers are required to conduct **annual cognitive health assessments** on members aged 65 years of age or older. This requirement is for any licensed health care professional who is enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider, acting within their scope of practice, and is eligible to bill Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes for cognitive health assessments for members. To learn more, visit:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-025.pdf>
- There will be upcoming changes to **Facility Site and Medical Record Reviews** for primary care providers and their offices. Learn about those changes and how to prepare for them:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-017.pdf>

- **Community health workers** are now a covered benefit in Medi-Cal. Learn about how to qualify for becoming a Community Health Worker (CHW), the definitions of eligible populations for CHW services, and descriptions of applicable conditions for the benefit:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-016.pdf>
- Learn more about how to utilize **street medicine providers** to address clinical and non-clinical needs of Medi-Cal Members experiencing unsheltered homelessness. HPSM may cover the provision of medical services for members experiencing unsheltered homelessness as an Enhanced Care Management or Community Support provider:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-023.pdf>
- Keep up with the changing landscape of **COVID-19**. Learn more about changes in 2023 to federal and state requirements for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and prevention:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/APL-22-009.pdf>

Please direct questions about this notification to HPSM Provider Services at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community,
HPSM Provider Services