

Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Providers

From: Steve Peiser, Senior Director of Network Management

Re: **Non-Discrimination in Medical Treatment for COVID-19 Guidance**

Date: April 1, 2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the departments of Health Care Services (DHCS), Public Health (CDPH), and Managed Health Care (DMHC) continue to closely monitor and assess appropriate next steps as well as release guidance to ensure the safety of Medi-Cal beneficiaries, health plan enrollees, medical providers, and California communities in general.

During this crisis, people with disabilities are concerned that medical providers might consider an individual's disability status when determining which patients to treat if hospitals or other health care facilities experience a surge of patients needing life-saving care.

In a joint bulletin, which is available [here](#) on the DHCS website, the state departments remind health care providers and payers that rationing care based on a person's disability status is impermissible and unlawful under both federal and state law.

If you have any questions, please contact GCHP's Provider Relations Department at ProviderRelations@goldchp.org.