



March 11, 2024

All Plan Letter (APL) 24-001 Street Medicine

Dear Provider,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released APL 24-001 superseding APL 22-023, Street Medicine on January 12, 2024. The DHCS provides information regarding Street Medicine and addressing the clinical and non-clinical needs of members experiencing unsheltered homelessness by meeting them where they are and utilizing a whole person, patient centered approach.

Street Medicine is defined as providing clinical and non-clinical services to an individual experiences unsheltered homelessness in their living environment, in places not intended to for human habitation. This includes mobile units and recreational vehicles (RV) that go to the individuals experiences unsheltered homelessness in their living environment. ***Healthcare services provided at shelters; mobile units/RV, or other specified location do not qualify as street medicine.***

Requirements

Street Medicine Providers refer to licensed medical providers (e.g., Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Physician Assistant (PA), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)) who conduct patients visits outside of the four walls of clinics or hospitals and directly on the street, in environments where unsheltered individuals may be such as those living in a care, RV, abandoned building, or other outdoor areas.

Non-Physician medical practitioners (PA, NP, and CNM), will need to be in compliance with state law and the DHCS contract requirements regarding physician supervision of non-physician medical practitioners. Please see KHS Policy 4.04P, Non-Physician Medical Practitioners for additional information:

- <https://res.cloudinary.com/dpmykpsih/image/upload/kern-site-353/media/1497/404-p-non-physician-medical-practitioners-supervision-by-physicians-2018-04.pdf>

****Note Street Medicine Providers are not required to be affiliated with a brick-and-mortar facility.***

Street Medicine Providers as Member's Assigned Primary Care Provider (PCP)

Street Medicine Providers may serve as a member's assigned PCP through a direct contract, as an Enhanced Care Management (ECM), Community Supports Provider, or as a referring or

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treated contracted provider. Street Medicine Providers that choose to serve as a member's PCP upon member election must meet the following criteria:

- Must meet KHS eligibility criteria to serve as a PCP
- Be qualified and capable of treating the full range of healthcare issues served by PCPs within their scope of practices and agree to serve in a PCP role
- Are responsible for providing the full array of Primary Care services, including but not limited to, preventative services, and the treatment of acute and chronic conditions.
- Must agree to provide the essential components of the Medical Home in order to provide comprehensive and continuous medical care, including but not limited to:
 1. Basic Population Health Management
 2. Care coordination and health promotion
 3. Support for Members, their families, and their authorized representatives
 4. Referral to Specialists, including behavioral health, community, and social support services, when needed
 5. The use of Health Information Technology to link services, as feasible and appropriate
 6. Provision of primary and preventative services to assigned Members.

Street Medicine Providers who are serving in an assigned PCP capacity must undergo a site review process. Street Medicine Providers elected as a member's assigned PCP are exempt from PCP time and distance standards, as the member does not have a permanent residential address and the Street Medicine Provider is meeting the member at their lived environment.

Billing

KHS contracted Street Medicine Providers, providing services to KHS members are required to bill KHS for appropriate and applicable services, within the provider scope of practice. Providers should use the following Place of Service (POS) codes as appropriate:

- POS code 27, outreach site/street (*Effective October 1, 2023*)
- POS code 04, homeless shelter
- POS code 15, mobile unit
- POS code 16, temporary lodging

If the Street Medicine Provider is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the provider can still be reimbursed at their applicable Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate when such services are being provided outside the four walls and where the member is located. The FQHC would be paid their applicable PPS rate when the street medicine Provider is a billable clinic provider.

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Please see KHS Policy 4.52P, Street Medicine Program for additional information:

- <https://res.cloudinary.com/dpmykpsih/image/upload/kern-site-353/media/d76ff6a2fe1c4ae9ab19389eac06aaaa/452-p-street-medicine-program-2023-02-web.pdf>

Additional information regarding APL 24-001, Street Medicine, is available on the DHCS website:

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL%202024/APL24-001.pdf>

KHS posts all bulletins on the KHS website, www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com, choose Provider, then Bulletins.

For any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 1-800-391-2000, Option 5 (silent prompt).

Sincerely,

Kristie Onaindia
Provider Relations Manager
Kern Health Systems