



April 10, 2023

All Plan Letter (APL) 22-025

Responsibilities For Annual Cognitive Health Assessment for Eligible Members 65 Years of Age or Older

Dear Provider,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released APL 22-025 on November 28, 2022, to provide guidance about the provision of the new annual Medi-Cal cognitive health assessment to eligible members 65 years of age or older and who do not have Medicare coverage. The annual cognitive health assessment is intended to identify whether the patient has signs of Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

Provider Billing Requirements

In order to appropriately bill and receive reimbursement for conducting an annual cognitive health assessment, Providers must do all of the following:

- 1) Complete the DHCS Dementia Care Aware cognitive health assessment training prior to conducting the brief cognitive health assessment;
- 2) Administer the annual cognitive health assessment as a component of an E&M visit;
- 3) Bill CPT code 1494F (cognition assessed and reviewed [DEM]) on an additional claim line;
- 4) Document the following in the Member's medical record and have such records available upon request:
 - a. The screening tool or tools used (listed below)
 - b. Verification that screening results were reviewed by the provider
 - c. The results of the screening
 - d. The interpretation of the results
 - e. Details regarding next steps and any action taken based on screening results

Additional details and quantity limits can be found in the Medi-Cal Provider Manual <https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-mtp/part2/eval.pdf>

Cognitive Assessment Tools

At least one cognitive assessment tool listed below is required to determine if a full dementia evaluation is needed:

PROVIDER Bulletin



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

- 1) Patient assessment tools
 - a. General Practitioner assessment of Cognition (GPCOG)
 - b. Mini-Cog
- 2) Informant tools (family members and close friends)
 - a. Eight-item Informant Interview to Differentiate Aging and Dementia
 - b. GPCOG
 - c. Short Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly

Providers are required to complete the cognitive health assessment training in order to bill and receive reimbursement. The assessment training is available at: <https://www.dementiacareaware.org>

Dementia Care Aware Warmline

The Dementia Care Aware Warmline is now live at 1-800-933-1789, from Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The warmline offers education and decision-making consultation for clinicians and primary care teams in California, covering topics related to dementia screening, assessment, diagnosis, management, and care planning.

The warmline also provides support for implementing the Dementia Care Aware cognitive health assessment as a screening approach, outlined [here](#). Consultants are available to answer questions that may arise during any stage of dementia care, how to make systems changes in their practice, and related medical legal considerations. Voicemail messages left after hours will be returned the next business day.

The full APL can be found by visiting:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-025.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.

Sincerely,

Melissa McGuire
Deputy Director of Provider Network
Kern Health Systems