



BULLETINS

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Hot Topics

2024 Health Plan Transition



As a reminder effective January 1, 2024, Medi-Cal members have the following health plan options in Kern County:

Continuing Health Plan	Kern Family Health Care
Entering Health Plan	Anthem Blue Cross Partnership Plan
Entering Health Plan	Kaiser Permanente (Subject to eligibility criteria)

Please note, that Health Net no longer available in Kern County after 12/31/2023. Members currently assigned to Health Net will be given the choice to select from the Health Plans listed above.

As reminder, eligibility should be verified prior to a visit. Eligibility can be verified via the Medi-Cal website, please reference the link [here](#).

Continuity of Care (CoC) will be provided to members transitioning to a new health plan effective January 1, 2024. CoC will allow members to continue services with their current provider for 12 months as they transition with their new health plan. However, the 2024 CoC policy does not apply to members that change health plans by choice after January 1, 2024.

For additional information regarding the 2024 MCP Transition, please reference the following links below:

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/MCP-Transition/Pages/Home.aspx>
- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/MCP-Transition/Pages/Providers.aspx>

Palliative Care Services Are Available to Qualified KFHC Members

Our social workers connect KFHC members with palliative care services while receiving curative treatment. This provides them with an extra layer of support in managing their care.

What is Palliative Care?

- Working in partnership with the primary care physician, the palliative care team (which consists of specially trained Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers, and Chaplains) provides an extra layer of support to improve the quality of life of patients.
- It is an early approach to the provision of end-of-life care and sees the person beyond the disease.
- It is based on the needs of the patient, not the patient's prognosis. Focusing on providing relief from symptoms and stress of the illness.
- Services can be delivered to patients at home, in a skilled nursing facility, or a hospital.
- Expert management of complex physical and emotional symptoms, including complex pain, depression, anxiety, fatigue, shortness of breath, constipation, nausea, loss of appetite, and difficulty sleeping.
- Skilled communication about what to expect in the future to ensure that care is matched to the goals and priorities of the patient and the family.
- Coordination and communication of care plans among all providers and across all settings.

Who provides these services?

- Antelope Valley Supportive Care and Hospice (Lancaster)
- Aasta Hospice (Bakersfield)
- Bakersfield Community Hospice (Bakersfield)
- Bristol Hospice (Bakersfield)
- Graceful Palms Hospice and Palliative Care (Bakersfield)
- Hoffman Hospice of the Valley (Bakersfield)
- ProCare Hospice (Bakersfield, Lancaster)

Who is it for?

- People living with a chronic illness, as outlined by APL, with the goal of improving quality of life for both the patient and the family.

How to refer a patient?

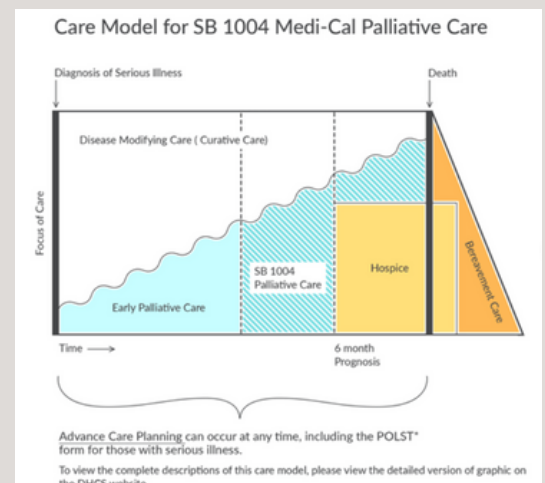
- Palliative care services require prior authorization. Providers who identify members for palliative care can submit a referral for palliative care services to KHS through the provider portal.
- After referral submission, providers can email Population Health Management Triage team at p hmtriageteam@khs-net.com to refer a member to be contacted by the Social Workers for coordinating services.

To learn more, please visit these sites:

- [Patients Tell Their Stories](#)
- [Extra Supports for People with Serious Illness \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Feeling Prepared: Louisa's Story \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Care Model for SB 1004 Medi-Cal Palliative Care](#)
- [CCMC's Case Management Body of Knowledge \(CMBOK\) \(cmbodyofknowledge.com\)](#)
- [Tools and Training for Clinicians | Palliative Care Programs | Center to Advance Palliative Care \(capc.org\)](#)

APL Eligibility Criteria:

- Patient has received appropriate patient-desired medical therapy or it's no longer effective and death within 1 year would not be unexpected.
- Utilization of ER/hospital to manage advanced/progressed stages of the following conditions:
 - CHF*
 - COPD*
 - Advanced Cancer* – stage 3 or 4 solid organ cancer, lymphoma or leukemia and failure of chemo or radiation therapy
 - Liver Disease* – irreversible liver damage *Further details noted on APL. APL 18-020 (ca.gov)



Enhanced Care Management: A Step Further in Care

The Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Program was implemented in January of 2022 as part of the CalAIM Initiative. Enhanced Care Management is a whole-person, interdisciplinary approach to care that addresses both the clinical and non-clinical needs of high-cost and/or high-need members through the systematic coordination of services and comprehensive care management that is community-based, interdisciplinary, high-touch, and person-centered.

The ECM program has expanded over the last two years to include several new populations of focus and several new program providers. The ECM program currently has 28 ECM program providers and will be expanding throughout 2024. For more information on the ECM program, including eligible populations of focus, participating providers, and how to make a referral, please visit: [Enhanced Care Management | Kern Family Health Care](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Loni Hill-Pirtle, LCSW, Director of ECM, at loni.hill@khs-net.com or 661-664-5167.

ABA SERVICES:

- Social Behavior Solutions

MENTAL HEALTH

- Kern Psychiatric Health & Wellness Center
- Millicent Pitts—Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
- Rachel Iris Rios
- Seasons of Change Therapeutic Services

PEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH:

- Esteem Health PSC

welcome

Join the HEAL Committee!

The Kern Health Systems' Health Equity Office invites you to join the Provider HEAL (Health Equity & Learning) Committee. The purpose of the HEAL Committee is to solicit feedback directly from providers to inform training and programming, resource sharing, and to explore and discuss opportunities for expanding access and/or services that align with and support health equity initiatives. Committee meetings will be held quarterly in-person or virtually depending on the preferences of those that express interest. For more information, please contact HealthEquity@khs-net.com.



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