



Provider Operations Bulletin

OCTOBER 2025

Table of Contents

SECTION 1:	Updated Guidelines for Medically Tailored Meals (MTM) and Medically Supportive Food (MSF)	3
SECTION 2:	Attention Providers: Ensuring First Names Are Included on Newborn Enrollment Files	5
SECTION 3:	Required Comprehensive Health Intervention for Lifelong Development (CHILD) Provider Trainings	6
SECTION 4:	Improve Management of Chronic Conditions with Home Monitoring Devices	
SECTION 5:	Cervical Cancer Screening Disparities and Member Perception on Getting Screened	8
SECTION 6:	Health Education	10
SECTION 7:	Cultural and Linguistic Services	13
SECTION 8:	Reminder – 2025 Provider Surveys Timeline and Details	15



The Provider Operations Bulletin is published bi-monthly by Gold Coast Health Plan's Communications Department as a service for the provider community.

Information comes from GCHP and its partners. If you have any concerns or questions related to specific content, please contact the Network Operations Department at ProviderRelations@goldchp.org or call GCHP Provider Services at 1-888-301-1228 and request to speak to your Provider Relations representative.

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SECTION 1:

Updated Guidelines for Medically Tailored Meals (MTM) and Medically Supportive Food (MSF)

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) offers Medically Tailored Meals (MTM) and Medically Supportive Food (MSF) services to members who meet medical eligibility criteria as part of the CalAIM initiative. These services are designed to address chronic or serious nutrition-sensitive conditions, with the goal of improving health outcomes and reducing unnecessary costs.

As with most of our programs, GCHP periodically reviews our processes and results to identify opportunities for improvement. Based on a recent review of MTM and MSF, GCHP will implement changes to the length of authorized services, clinical criteria for authorizations, and denial criteria.

Effective Oct. 20, 2025, the updated guidelines for MTM and MSF are as follows:

- 1. Members can continue to be referred to the program if they meet the state-defined medical eligibility criteria.
- 2. Members will continue to be able to receive 90 days of medically tailored meals or groceries without prior authorization.
- 3. Authorizations to extend the service will be issued for 90 days unless an authorization is submitted with both 90 days of MTM and 90 days of MSF, including groceries.
- 4. To authorize an extension beyond 90 days, GCHP will apply the following clinical criteria:
 - Malnutrition with a Malnutrition Screening Tool (MST) score of >=3
 - Diabetes (A1C>=9% on referral)
 - Cardiovascular disease
 - Liver disease (NASH, NAFLD, end-stage liver disease, cirrhosis, MASLD)
 - Congestive heart failure (class 3 or 4) and hospitalized x1 within the last 6 months
 - Renal failure (dialysis or stage 4 or 5) with hospitalization x1 within the last 6 months
 - Stroke (post-discharge), excluding TIA or RIND
 - Chronic lung disorders (COPD, CF, emphysema, interstitial lung, allergic asthma, or other severe lung disease post-hospitalization)
 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) with MST score of >=3
 - Cancer post-hospitalization or active chemotherapy or during radiation therapy
 - Gestational diabetes
 - Post-op bariatric
 - High-risk perinatal conditions while pregnant
 - Elevated lead levels

MTM and MSF services will be **denied** after a member has received a **total of one year (365 days) of MTM and/ or MSF**. In rare and exceptional cases, GCHP may consider a one-time 90-day extension beyond the 1-year (365-day) service limit. To qualify, the member must have experienced a significant acute event—such as a recent hospitalization—or received a new diagnosis of a nutrition-sensitive chronic condition listed in the clinical criteria.

The policy also applies to members who have been listed as program completed / graduated in the return transmission file.

Transition Period:

- While GCHP implements these updated clinical guidelines, members who have exceeded 365 days of service will continue receiving meals until their current authorization expires.
- If a member switches providers, GCHP will reauthorize services with the new provider for the remainder of the existing authorization period.

Please contact us at providerrelations@goldchp.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

SECTION 2:

Attention Providers: Ensuring First Names Are Included on Newborn Enrollment Files

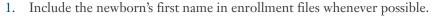
Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) would like to share an issue identified affecting claims processing for newborn members: some enrollment files are missing the member's first name. Analysis shows that more than 90% of these cases involve children under 12 months of age. Missing first names can result in claims not properly matching to the member, which may delay processing.

This situation often occurs when hospital accelerated enrollment is used for a deemed newborn, and the hospital does not yet have the newborn's first name.

To help prevent discrepancies and ensure smooth claims processing, we ask that providers who issue presumptive or accelerated enrollment review the following resources:

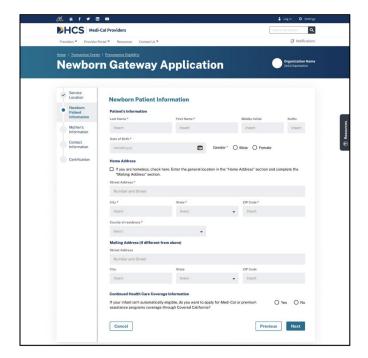
- User Guide for Newborn Gateway
- Provider FAO
- Informational Document

Key Recommendations:



- 2. Use the resources above to guide presumptive or accelerated enrollment procedures.
- 3. Contact your Medi-Cal Human Services Agency (HSA) liaison if you have questions or need additional support.

By ensuring accurate enrollment data, we can help reduce claim delays and improve the member experience.



SECTION 3:

Required Comprehensive Health Intervention for Lifelong Development (CHILD) Provider Trainings

All licensed and non-licensed medical personnel providing required health screenings for pediatric patients are required to complete applicable well-child preventive screening trainings upon hire and every four years to ensure compliance with best demonstrated practices. The Children's Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) well-child preventive screening trainings have been re-branded to the Comprehensive Health Intervention for Lifelong Development (CHILD) trainings. The four mandatory CHILD training modules include anthropometric measurements, audiometry, vision screening and topical fluoride varnish application.

These training modules and the requisite attestations and staff competency documents can be found on our website by clicking <u>here</u>.

If you have any questions regarding the CHILD trainings, please contact us at fsr@goldchp.org.

SECTION 4:

Improve Management of Chronic Conditions with Home Monitoring Devices

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) covers self-monitoring devices for members diagnosed with asthma, hypertension, or diabetes to help manage their chronic conditions. Self-monitoring devices enable patients to actively manage their chronic conditions, which leads to improved self-management and greater patient engagement. The devices also provide health care practitioners with more real-time data to make more informed decisions, develop personalized treatment plans, and facilitate timely interventions that lead to better health outcomes.

Asthma Management Tools

Inhaler assistive and lung monitoring devices, such as spacers and peak flow meters, are covered by Medi-Cal Rx. For more information, click here.

Blood Pressure Monitors and Cuffs

Personal home blood pressure monitors and cuffs are covered by Medi-Cal Rx and through the GCHP durable medical equipment benefit. For more information, click here.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Systems

CGM systems that measure blood glucose levels may be covered by Medi-Cal Rx with an approved prior authorization. For more information, click <u>here</u>.

SECTION 5:

Cervical Cancer Screening Disparities and Member Perception on Getting Screened

The American Cancer Society estimates for cervical cancer in the United States in 2025, about 13,360 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed and about 4,320 women will die from it.

Preventing cervical cancer is possible because of the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and cervical cancer screenings. Although the United States cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates have declined by more than 50% over past decades, disparities across incidence, stage distribution, geography, and mortality largely reflect socioeconomic disparities and a lack of access to care. Similarly, Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) reports disparities across multiple demographic categories when analyzing the cervical cancer screening (CCS) National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) performance measure data.

Disparity Analysis Summary

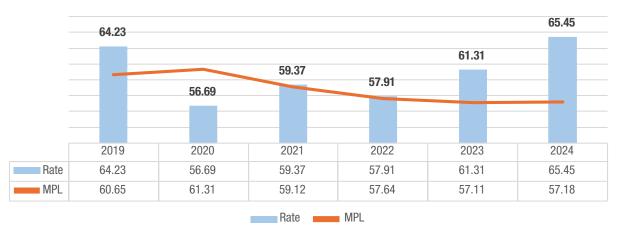
GCHP analyzed the distribution of compliance for cervical cancer screenings across five demographic categories for measurement year (MY) 2024: residence, age, spoken language, ethnicity and race. The data revealed statistical disparities in all five categories. For the purposes of this analysis, disparity is defined as a noticeable and significant difference between two or more groups. The MY 2024 minimum performance level (MPL), shown in the graph below, is 57.18%, and four out of the five demographic categories have one or more groups that scored lower than the national benchmark.

Understanding disparities within our patient population is important because it identifies specific issues within a community, enabling targeted interventions. The CCS disparity analysis highlights a need to investigate the barriers to care for these patient populations.

Category	Groups with Lowest rates
Residence*	Area 1 - Ventura (57.11%), Area 2 - Camarillo, Somis, Santa Rose (58.93%)
Age Group	24 to 29 (55.02%), 30 to 39 (61.13%)
Spoken Language	English (57.48%)
Race	White (53.08%), Africa American (48.80%), American Indian/Alaskan Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (53.85%)
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic (53.77%)

^{*}The residence category used zip codes to group 7 geographic areas in Ventura County based on population size and location.

CCS Six Year Rate History



GCHP Cervical Cancer Screening Member Focus Groups

During Spring 2025, GCHP conducted member focus group interviews with 38 women to better understand the barriers and challenges they face to complete screenings and the reasons why they do or do not complete their routine cervical cancer screenings.

Key takeaways:

- 66% had concerns about getting a Pap smear, including fear of results, pain, embarrassment, and/or not knowing what to expect.
- 100% of members surveyed would like to receive reminders from their primary care provider.
- 66% prefer a female provider for Pap smear appointments.

To support members more effectively, providers are encouraged to standardize reminder notices for routine screenings. Providers are also encouraged to notify members that they can request cervical cancer screening appointments with a female provider.

Host a Workshop at your Clinic

In response to the focus group feedback, GCHP is offering patients in-clinic health education workshops for cervical cancer screenings. Your patients will learn about the screening, its importance, what to expect and how often it should be done. Providers can either request a workshop or refer a member / patient by contacting the GCHP Health Education Department at 805-437-5961. You can also email at HealthEducation@goldchp.org. GCHP is committed to enhancing our health education efforts, especially around the importance of timely cervical cancer screenings and setting clear expectations for the process.

To learn more:

Please reach out to the Quality Improvement Department at GCHP if you would like to review your patient population disparity analysis for the CCS or other performance measures. Contact QualityImprovement@goldchp.org.

SECTION 6:

Health Education

Breast Cancer Screening

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to prioritize timely breast cancer screenings for eligible members. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPST) recommends that women start screening for breast cancer at age 40 and continue to get screened every other year. Early detection through routine mammograms is essential in improving health outcomes.

As a health care team, our goal is to ensure our members are aware of routine breast cancer screenings and reducing any barriers to access to care. For additional support, connect members to Gold Coast Health Plan's (GCHP) Health Education Department at 1-805-437-5961, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except holidays).

GCHP offers the following health education resources:

- Women's health flyer
- Women's health FAQs
- Mammogram imaging centers
- Member Rewards Program Form
- **Breast Cancer Screening Brochure**











Flu Season and Vaccines: Be Up-to-Date

With flu season here, GCHP members can get their flu shots at no cost. Encourage all members 6 months of age and older to get their flu vaccine. Clinics around the county will offer walk-in clinics to assist members in getting their vaccine.

We understand that each season, there are some members who are hesitant in receiving their flu shot as well as other vaccines. Education is key in addressing any concerns and myths surrounding the flu vaccine. Talk to members (and parents) to dispel any misconceptions by activity listening and responding to questions.

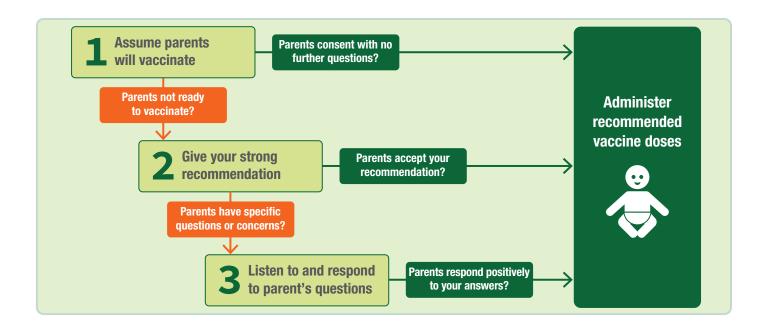


- When listening, seek to understand the context behind parents'
 questions before responding so you can be sure the information you provide is appropriate to their
 concerns.
- Share your strong vaccine recommendation.
- Parents and members consistently rank their child's doctor as their most trusted source for vaccine information.

For more information and tips to help address vaccine hesitancy, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); view "Talking with Parents about Vaccines," "Questions Parents May Ask about Vaccines" and more.

These concepts are helpful both for parents and adult members.



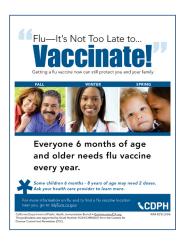


Flu Resources

Flu season is here! Below you will find important information to remember and resource for members. The most important thing is for all people 6 months and older to get a flu vaccine every year.

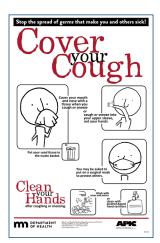
California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

- Flu Toolkit
- FAQs Page



CDC:

- Flu Materials
- Cover Your Cough Poster for Health Care:
 - » English
 - » Spanish



- Be A Germ-Buster... Wash Your Hands Poster (How-to Hand Washing):
 - » English
 - » Spanish

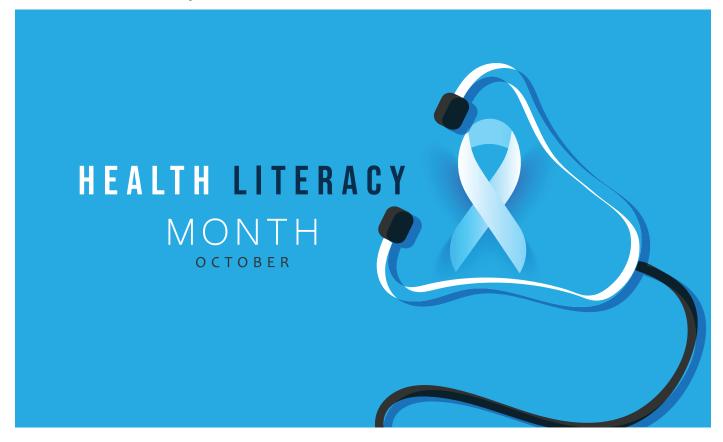


Contact the Health Education Department for additional information at **805-437-5961**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except holidays). If you use a TTY, call **711**. Providers can also send an email to <u>HealthEducation@goldchp.org</u>.

SECTION 7:

Cultural and Linguistic Services

October is Health Literacy Month.



October is Health Literacy Month, a time to remember the importance of clear communication in health care. Health literacy empowers individuals to understand health information and make informed decisions. With the complexity of medical jargon, ensuring that everyone can access understandable information is essential, particularly for underserved communities and those with limited English proficiency (LEP).

To promote and support awareness for the Health Literacy Month, the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA) provides a Health Literacy Month Toolkit that can help turn awareness into action with health literacy month.

Caring for Patients with Limited English Proficiency

It is crucial for health care providers to offer free, qualified interpretations services for members with LEP. This can be done in person, over the phone, or through video remote interpreting (VRI). When an interpreter is used, the health care provider should speak directly to the patient, not the interpreter.

Effective Communication Strategies When Using an Interpreter:

- When using an interpreter, speak directly to the patient, not the interpreter.
- Break down complex medical information into smaller, manageable chunks. After each portion, assess the patient's understanding by asking them to explain it back in their own words.
- Remember to pause at the end of each complete thought and allow the interpreter to interpret.
- Use clear, concise, and easy-to-understand language. Avoid jargon.
- Check for understanding throughout the session.
- Create an interactive dialogue by encouraging patients to ask questions and take the time to answer them.



Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) ensures equitable access for members by providing language assistance services at no cost. To access GCHP's language assistance services or receive training, contact GCHP's Cultural and Linguistic Services at **1-805-437-5961**, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except holidays) or email CulturalLinguistics@goldchp.org. Visit the GCHP website, For Providers page to learn more.

SECTION 8:

2025 Provider Surveys Timeline and Details

In our continuous efforts to foster quality health care services and meaningful provider engagement, we are pleased to share the timeline and details for our upcoming provider surveys scheduled for 2025. Your feedback is integral in helping Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) meet critical regulatory standards and improve our network performance.

Please review the following schedule and key information.

Survey Timeline Overview

Survey	Timeline
Appointment Availability and After-Hours Access	Late Q2 2025 – End Q3 2025
Provider Satisfaction Survey	Q4 2025

1. Appointment Availability and After-Hours Survey

- Timeline: ➤ Survey fielding: Begins late Q2 2025 ➤ Conclusion: Ends at the close of Q3 2025
- **Purpose:** To ensure compliance with the state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) standards, this survey verifies that our network providers are available to see health plan members promptly within specified days or hours for various appointment types.
- Additional information: For an in-depth look at the DHCS standards, please visit the GCHP website
 Access and Availability Standards webpage.

2. Provider Satisfaction Survey

- **Timeline:** ➤ Survey fielding: Q4 2025
- **Purpose:** Your voice matters! This survey is designed to capture your experiences and perspectives on key service areas, including:
 - » Finance and payment processes
 - » Utilization and quality management
 - » Call center support
 - » Provider relations and communications
 - » Overall satisfaction

Key Reminders for Participation

- **Your input is vital:** By completing these surveys within the specified periods, you help us identify opportunities for improvement and ensure that we maintain the excellence our members expect.
- Timely response: Please mark your calendars and complete each survey promptly. Your cooperation ensures that every voice is heard, and every insight is valued.

Thank you in advance for your participation and dedication to enhancing our network's service levels. Together, we will continue to drive improvements in both patient care and provider satisfaction.





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For additional information, contact Customer Service at 1-888-301-1228. Gold Coast Health Plan

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