

DHCS All Plan Letter Summary

To: Medi-Cal network participants

August 2025

Subject: All Plan Letter 25-010: Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 25-010](#), "Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services." We are sharing a summary of this APL with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

APL 25-010 updates guidance for Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan and county mental health plans (MHPs) with regards to their use of the [Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services](#) to inform referrals and care coordination.

Key information

- Introduced in APL 22-028, the Adult Screening Tool is for members ages 21 and older, while the Youth Screening Tool is for members under the age of 21. The Transition of Care Tool supports transitions between MCP and county MHP services for members of all ages.
- MCPs and MHPs are not required to use the screening tools if the member is currently receiving mental health services through the MCP or MHP; if the member is referred directly to a mental health delivery system by a practitioner; or if the member reaches out directly to the mental health delivery system.
- Completion of a screening tool is not considered an assessment. Once a member is referred to an MCP or county MHP, they must receive an assessment from a provider to determine medically necessary mental health services.
 - Note that these screening tools are not for provider use. When members are referred to you, please assess their needs using assessment tools recommended by DHCS.
- The screening tool score determines whether a member is referred by the MCP to an MCP provider or the MHP for assessment and medically necessary services.
- APL 25-010 includes new guidance for when an MCP may override a screening tool score.
- When administering the Transition of Care Tool for members ages 12 through 17, MCPs are required to follow consent standards for minors.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of APL 25-010 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL%202025/APL25-010.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about the topics covered in this APL, please contact our Provider Customer Service team via Live Chat after logging in at blueshieldca.com/provider or call **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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