

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal and Cal MediConnect* network participants

October 2022

From: Manuel T.G. Enriquez 
Senior Director, Provider Network Management

Subject: **APL 22-18, Skilled Nursing Facilities -- Long Term Care Benefit Standardization and Transition of Members to Managed Care**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 22-018](#), "Skilled Nursing Facilities -- Long Term Care Benefit Standardization and Transition of Members to Managed Care." 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.

As part of the CalAIM initiative, APL 22-018 explains how managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan will administer the Long Term Care (LTC) benefit to members in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) after benefit standardization takes place in 2023.

Key details:

- Effective January 1, 2023, most LTC members will be required to enroll in an MCP, including those who are receiving SNF services.
- Going forward, members in need of SNF services will remain enrolled in their MCP instead of being transitioned to a Fee for Service (FFS) plan.
- Prescription drugs will be billed according to claim type – pharmacy claims will be paid by Medi-Cal Rx and medical or institutional claims will go to the MCP.
- The APL includes requirements for leaves of absence, bed holds, continuity of care, treatment authorizations, and facility payments.
- Each MCP will implement a population health management program that includes all Medi-Cal managed care members, including those receiving SNF services.

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 22-018 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-018.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

Additional information about Blue Shield Promise's implementation of this APL will be forthcoming.

Please direct questions about serving Blue Shield Promise members to our Provider Services Department at (800) 468-9935 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

*Cal MediConnect network participants are responsible for identifying and applying the guidance and requirements that pertain to their patients.