


Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal Network Providers

October 2020

From: Hugo Florez 
Vice President, Network Management

Subject: Department of Health Care Services COVID-19 All Plan Letters – APL 20-004 revisions

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has issued several All Plan Letters (APLs) to Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) in response to the current COVID-19 crisis. Recently, APL 20-004 was revised to provide additional guidance and refer providers to information on the DHCS web page, [COVID-19 Information for Providers & Partners](#). We are sharing a summary of these revisions with you to ensure you are aware of the information.

Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan also publishes [COVID-19 information](#), some of which pertains to network Medi-Cal service providers.

[APL 20-004](#) – (Revised on 08/18/2020)

Emergency Guidance for Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans in Response to Covid-19

- **Encounter Data** – DHCS has set early 2021 as a tentative timeframe for resuming activities related to the State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Encounter Data Validation (EDV) study, which was paused in March 2020. Depending on the state of the COVID-19 public health emergency in early 2021, DHCS may further postpone EDV activities if appropriate.
- **Long Term Care Reimbursement** – During the COVID-19 emergency, DHCS will temporarily provide an additional 10% reimbursement for long term care (LTC) per diem rates, effective March 1, 2020. Rates may be found on the DHCS web page, [Long-Term Care Reimbursement AB 1629](#).
- **COVID-19 Testing** – MCPs must adhere to the COVID-19 testing requirements outlined in the DHCS [COVID-19 Virus and Antibody Testing](#) guidance document.
- **Suicide Prevention Practices for Providers** – DHCS encourages MCPs to share a [suicide prevention notice](#) with their network providers and subcontractors, as appropriate. The letter was created through a collaboration with the directors of DHCS, the California Department of Public Health and the California Surgeon General.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL revisions. Please see the APL itself for the complete requirements. The full text of all DHCS managed care APLs may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/AllPlanLetters.aspx>. (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about applying any of the information in this notice to Blue Shield Promise members, please call our Provider Customer Care Department at **(800) 468-9935** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.