

# Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

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November 18, 2024

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## Subacute Care Facilities – Long Term Care Benefit Standardization and Transition of Members to Managed Care APL 24-010

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to the Medi-Cal line of business.

### **What you need to know:**

All Plan Letter (APL) 24-010 supersedes APL 23-027. This communication provides updated language focused on the revisions made to sections IX. Payment Processes Including Timely Payment of Claims and X. Share of Cost.

### **BACKGROUND**

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) APL 24-010 guides Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) in their transition to managing subacute care facility services for Medi-Cal members. This APL standardizes the Long-Term Care (LTC) benefit structure and transitions members in subacute facilities from fee-for-service (FFS) to managed care. Key aspects include MHC requirements for timely and accurate payments to providers, adherence to updated Medi-Cal per diem rates, and strict reporting and oversight to ensure continuity of care for members during this transition.

### **When is this happening?**

Effective January 1, 2024.

## Provider Action

This notification is based on APL 24-010, which can be found in full on the DHCS website at:

[dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL%202024/APL24-010.pdf](https://dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL%202024/APL24-010.pdf)



## **What you need to know CONT:**

### **IX. PAYMENT PROCESSES INCLUDING TIMELY PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

- Medi-Cal FFS Per Diem Rate Updates:
  - DHCS will periodically update the Medi-Cal FFS per diem rates for certain dates of service.
  - MHC is required to implement these updated rates prospectively within 30 working days of notification by DHCS.
- Retroactive Payment Adjustments:
  - If retroactive amounts are due to providers based on updated per diem rates, MHC will complete these adjustments within 45 working days of notification.
  - MHC will handle these adjustments automatically, without requiring Network Providers to reprocess or resubmit claims.
- Expanded Reimbursement Standards:
  - Timely payment and claims processing requirements are now extended to Out-of-Network Providers when services were rendered under continuity of care.
- Immediate Compliance with Updated Requirements:
  - MHC will comply with the updated reimbursement requirements immediately, ensuring timely payments.

### **X. SHARE OF COST**

- Share of Cost (SOC) Processing Requirements:
  - MHC will process claims from Subacute Care Facilities according to Medi-Cal guidelines for SOC, as outlined in the Medi-Cal LTC Provider Manual.
  - When a member has an SOC, the facility will deduct the SOC amount from the claim and submit the remaining balance to MHC.
- Member Rights Under Johnson v. Rank:
  - Members, not providers, may apply their SOC funds to necessary, non-covered medical or remedial care services, supplies, equipment, and drugs (medical services) that are prescribed by a physician and included in the care plan.
  - Facilities must subtract the amounts spent by members on non-covered services from the SOC balance and collect only the remaining SOC amount from the member.
- Record-Keeping for SOC Expenditures:
  - Subacute Care Facilities must maintain the physician's prescriptions for SOC expenditures in the member's medical record to comply with Johnson v. Rank requirements.
- SOC Certification in Eligibility Verification:
  - Facilities collecting SOC payments must certify SOC in the Medi-Cal eligibility verification system to confirm the member has paid or is obligated to pay the monthly SOC amount.

If you are not contracted with Molina and your fax number is not shared with a contracted provider, and you wish to opt out of receiving the MHC Provider Bulletin, please email [mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com).

Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.

## What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Relations Representative below.

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