

Cal MediConnect



Department of Health Care Services

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XX/XX/XXXX

## Important Information

### About your Medicare and Medi-Cal Benefits

You are getting this letter because you have both Medicare and Medi-Cal. The way you get your health care is changing. You will now have more choices to meet your health care needs.

This is the first letter telling you about your new choices. Soon, you will get a second letter with more information about your choices. You may choose a Cal MediConnect health plan, or choose to stay with regular Medicare. If you choose to stay with regular Medicare, you must choose a Medi-Cal health plan. If you do not make a choice, we will choose one of the Cal MediConnect health plans for you.

#### What is a health plan?

A health plan is a group of health care providers that work together to give you the care you need. Sometimes, a health plan is called a “managed care organization”.

Enrolling in a Cal MediConnect health plan means:

- Keeping your Medicare and Medi-Cal eligibility without any extra costs.
- Keeping all of the services and benefits you get now.
- Getting help to make sure all your doctors, specialists, and other providers work together to get you the care you need.
- Getting **additional** transportation and vision benefits.

## When do I need to make a choice?

Soon, you will get more information about your health plan choices. You may choose a Cal MediConnect health plan, or choose to stay with regular Medicare. If you choose to stay with regular Medicare, you must choose a Medi-Cal health plan. If you do not make a choice, we will choose one of the Cal MediConnect health plans for you. You keep the benefits and services you have now, and your doctors and providers will work with your health plan.

Medi-Cal and Medicare will work with the health plan to let them know about your health care needs, so the health plan will be ready to serve you on the first day that your coverage is effective.

### Your choices include:

1. **Enrolling in a Cal MediConnect health plan.** These are special health plans that cover all Medicare and Medi-Cal services, such as transportation and vision benefits. In a Cal MediConnect plan, you keep all the benefits and services you have now. Your doctors and providers will work with your health plan to ensure you get the care you need.
2. **Enrolling in the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** if you are 55 or older and need a higher level of care to live at home. PACE provides all Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits plus extra services to help seniors who have chronic conditions live at home.
3. **Enrolling in a Medi-Cal health plan. Your Medicare will stay the way it is now.** Joining a Medi-Cal health plan will allow you to keep your Medicare doctors and hospitals, and you will not lose any services.

## How does this change help me?

The change helps you because your Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits work together and work better for you.

In a health plan, your doctors, pharmacists, Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS), and other providers work together to care for you. This is called “care coordination.” LTSS include a number of different home and community-based services that allows you with disabilities to stay in your home.

## What should I do now?

- Talk about these choices with someone who knows about your health care needs, like your family or doctors.
- Watch your mail for a packet from Health Care Options in about one month.

- If you want to talk to a health insurance counselor about these choices, call the **California Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP)** at **1-800-434-0222**.
- If you need this letter in another language or alternate format, like large print, audio, or Braille; or if you need help understanding this letter, please call:

### **Health Care Options**

1-800-430-4263 • TTY: 1-800-430-7077 • Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm  
[www.HealthCareOptions.dhcs.ca.gov](http://www.HealthCareOptions.dhcs.ca.gov)