

The State of California Cuts Some Medi-Cal Benefits

The changes in benefits are listed below. These changes do not apply to children under 21, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) members in long term care facilities, or pregnant women if not receiving the service would complicate the pregnancy. Refer to a complete list of exceptions in the section of this article titled, "Exceptions".

These changes are effective July 1, 2009.

- **Acupuncture and Chiropractic** services will not be covered through Medi-Cal.
- **Dental services** will not be covered. Some community clinics may continue to provide some dental services. You should contact your local community clinic to see if they are able to provide dental services to Medi-Cal recipients over age 21. Some medical and surgical services provided by a dentist will continue to be covered. Check with your dentist for more information.
- **Diabetic Eye examinations** PHC will continue to provide one diabetic eye examination every 12 months for diabetics. The examination can be provided by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist. The benefit does not include routine (refraction) exams.
- **Psychology will not be a Medi-Cal benefit.** However, some County Mental Health Departments may continue to provide psychology services. You can also check with your local County Mental Health Office to inquire about the availability of psychology services.
- PHC will continue to cover **audiologist services** including hearing aids when medically appropriate. PHC will require a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) from the audiologist for all audiology services.
- PHC will continue to cover **podiatry services** for diabetics and members with serious foot wounds.
- PHC will continue to cover **speech therapy** for stroke victims and PHC members with head and neck cancer.
- PHC will continue to cover **incontinence creams and washes.**

Exceptions

If I do not meet the above exceptions, can I still receive the reduced benefits?

You can still receive some or all of the reduced benefits, and certain dental services if you are:

- Receiving the services through the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program.
- Receiving the benefits through the Medicare Part B program.
- If an emergency condition occurs and the benefit is required to treat the emergency condition.
- If you are currently receiving these benefits or if you move from an exempt group, such as under 21 years of age, to a non-exempt group, such as turning 21 years of age you may continue to receive the benefit through the current course of treatment.
- Your county health department or community health clinic may be able to provide you some of the benefits and services no longer covered by Medi-Cal.
- Receiving care through the California Children's Services (CCS) Program.