



RICHARD FIGUEROA
ACTING DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
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Important news about your health coverage

Dear Beneficiary:

Good news! A new California law means your restricted scope Medi-Cal benefits may change to full scope Medi-Cal benefits.

What is the new law?

Starting **January 1, 2020**, a new law in California will give full scope Medi-Cal to young adults under the age of 26. Your immigration status does not matter. You still have to meet all other Medi-Cal eligibility rules.

What is full scope Medi-Cal?

Medi-Cal provides free or low-cost health care for some people who live in California. Full scope Medi-Cal covers more than just emergency care. It includes medical, dental, mental health, and vision (eye) care. Full scope Medi-Cal also covers alcohol and drug use treatment, medicine your doctor orders, and more. It can provide transportation to doctor and dental visits and to get your medicine. To learn more about Medi-Cal, read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that came with this letter.

Full scope Medi-Cal is different from the restricted scope Medi-Cal you have now. Restricted scope Medi-Cal covers some services but does not cover things like medicine or primary care. If you have pregnancy-related limited scope Medi-Cal, you have all Medi-Cal covered services, as long as the service is medically necessary.

How will I get health care services?

When you are enrolled in full scope Medi-Cal, you will get most of your health care services through a Medi-Cal health plan. A Medi-Cal health plan is a health insurance plan that covers Medi-Cal services. Each plan has specific providers. You can choose any Medi-Cal health plan that serves the county you live in. To learn more about your Medi-Cal health plan choices, go to <https://www.healthcareoptions.dhcs.ca.gov/>.

With the restricted scope Medi-Cal you have now, you should have a Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card (BIC). The BIC is a plastic card. It has a “poppy flower” or “blue and white” design. When you go for care, your doctor or clinic needs to see your BIC. Always take your BIC to all medical and dental visits. If you enroll in full scope Medi-Cal, you will keep using your BIC. If you need a new BIC, please call your county office for a new card.

When you enroll in a Medi-Cal health plan, you will also get a health plan card from your new Medi-Cal health plan. When you visit your doctor, dentist, and other medical providers, always show both your BIC and your health plan card.

How will I know if I can get full scope Medi-Cal?

You will get a letter in the mail to tell you if you can get full scope Medi-Cal benefits.

Do I need to do anything right now?

No. Your Medi-Cal benefits are not changing right now, so do not do anything yet. Because you already have restricted scope Medi-Cal, you do **not** need to fill out a new Medi-Cal application. But if you get a packet in the mail to renew your Medi-Cal, you should fill it out.

Where can I learn more or get help?

To learn more about Medi-Cal for young adults or to get help:

- Call the Medi-Cal Helpline at 1-800-541-5555. The call is free.
- Go to the Department of Health Care Services website at:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/YoungAdultExp.aspx>.

For questions related to immigration, including as it relates to the Medi-Cal program:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) funds qualified nonprofit organizations to provide services to immigrants who reside in the state of California. A list of providers is available on the CDSS website at: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Benefits-Services/More-Services/Immigration-Services/Immigration-Services-Contractors>.

For additional immigration information and resources, please visit California's Immigrant Guide website at: <https://immigrantguide.ca.gov/>.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Services