



## Article 2 of 5 in Our Cal MediConnect Series

*The following is the second in a series of articles about Cal MediConnect that Hershey Cause Communications has developed for physicians, specialists and other health care providers serving in Los Angeles County.*

### **New Benefits Under Cal MediConnect: Vision, Dental and Transportation**

With so many changes to navigate, your eligible patients may have questions about whether to join Cal MediConnect. A look at some of the new no-cost benefits offered by the program may help them to make the choice that's right for them.

Part of California's Coordinated Care Initiative, Cal MediConnect provides the option for older, low-income residents who qualify for both Medicare and Medi-Cal (dual eligible patients) to receive all of their benefits from one single, coordinated health plan. In Los Angeles County, there are five Cal MediConnect health plans from which to choose: L.A. Care Health Plan, Health Net, Care1st Health Plan, CareMore and Molina.

#### **Advantages to Joining Cal MediConnect**

By blending Medicare and Medi-Cal into one complete, coordinated health plan, patients will benefit from stronger care coordination, health-system navigation support, and a dedicated care team. Perhaps most importantly, they will have access to a care manager who is focused on meeting their individual medical needs.

In addition, patients and physicians will benefit from having medical care, prescription medications, mental health and behavioral health care, managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) and social services all coordinated by one health plan.

#### **Additional Benefits at No Extra Cost**

Cal MediConnect also provides additional benefits at no extra cost, including dental and vision coverage, which have been limited under traditional Medi-Cal and Medicare fee-for-service. For many patients, having to pay out of pocket means forgoing dental and vision services altogether, which can have a negative impact on their quality of life and health. Having these new benefits may be a significant reason for patients to join a Cal MediConnect plan.

Also covered under Cal MediConnect: non-emergency medical treatment related transportation. The transportation benefit includes up to 40 free one-way trips per year, to or from medical appointments. For patients in the dual eligible population, access to transportation can determine their ability to attend follow-up appointments that are vital to maintaining their health.

To find out more about the program and how to participate, please visit [www.calduals.org](http://www.calduals.org). You can also visit [www.calmediconnectla.org](http://www.calmediconnectla.org) or call 1-888-522-1298 for more information.

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