

Types of MCPs and MHPs

Identifying the Players and Governing Authorities

Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans

There are three main models of Medi-Cal managed care plans, including county-operated health systems (COHS), geographic managed care plans and two-plan model/regional model plans. The COHS serve beneficiaries in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, Ventura and Yolo Counties. Geographic managed care serves beneficiaries in Sacramento and San Diego Counties. All other counties, with the exception of San Benito that has a unique Medi-Cal managed care program, are served through a two-plan, modified two-plan or regional model.

Non-COHS Medi-Cal managed care plans are subject to a myriad of rules: federal Medicaid laws, the 1115 waiver, state Medi-Cal laws, the contracts between the non-COHS Medi-Cal plans and the state and the Knox-Keene Act. The state has adopted laws governing non-COHS Medi-Cal managed care plans.

Unlike non-COHS Medi-Cal managed care plans, COHS Medi-Cal managed care plans are subject to few state laws and are exempt from certain federal requirements. They are also exempt from Knox-Keene licensure with respect to their Medi-Cal lines of business. However, they continue to be subject to the 1115 waiver and certain legal requirements are made applicable to them pursuant to their contracts with the state.

Cal MediConnect Plan

Cal MediConnect plans operate in seven counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, and Santa Clara) and administer the Medi-Cal and Medicare benefits for dual-eligible beneficiaries enrolled in the Cal MediConnect program.

Cal MediConnect plans are subject to the plans' three-way contracts with CMS and DHCS, the memorandum of understanding between DHCS and CMS and state and federal laws governing dual demonstration projects. In addition, non-COHS Cal MediConnect plans are subject to the Knox-Keene Act. In some areas, the Cal MediConnect plans apply Medicare Advantage rules when the patient is receiving services that would have otherwise been covered by Medicare if the patient was not enrolled in Cal MediConnect. In these situations, if the patient is receiving care that would have otherwise been covered by Medi-Cal, then the plans apply Medi-Cal rules.

County Mental Health Plan

County mental health plans operate as prepaid inpatient health plans under federal law. They are subject to the state's 1915(b) Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services Waiver, their contracts with the state, federal laws governing prepaid inpatient health plans and applicable state law. They are not health care service plans subject to the Knox-Keene Act.