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DATE: December 23, 2018

ALL PLAN LETTER 18-023
SUPERSEDES ALL PLAN LETTER 18-011

TO: ALL MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS PARTICIPATING IN
THE WHOLE CHILD MODEL PROGRAM

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES WHOLE CHILD MODEL
PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this All Plan Letter (APL) is to provide direction to Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) participating in the California Children's Services (CCS) Whole Child Model (WCM) program. This APL conforms with CCS Numbered Letter (N.L.) 04-0618,¹ which provides direction and guidance to county CCS programs on requirements pertaining to the implementation of the WCM program. This APL supersedes APL 18-011.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill (SB) 586 (Hernandez, Chapter 625, Statutes of 2016) authorized the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish the WCM program in designated County Organized Health System (COHS) or Regional Health Authority counties.² The purpose of the WCM program is to incorporate CCS covered services into Medi-Cal managed care for CCS-eligible members. MCPs operating in WCM counties will integrate Medi-Cal managed care and county CCS program administrative functions to provide comprehensive treatment of the whole child and care coordination in the areas of primary, specialty, and behavioral health for CCS-eligible and non-CCS-eligible conditions.^{3, 4}

¹ CCS N.L.s can be found at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/pages/ccsnl.aspx>

² SB 586 is available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB586

³ See Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 123850(b)(1). HSC is searchable at:

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=HSC&tocTitle=+Health+and+Safety+Code++HSC>

⁴ See Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 14094.11. WIC is searchable at:

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=WIC&tocTitle=+Welfare+and+Institutions+Code++WIC>

MCPs will authorize care that is consistent with CCS program standards and provided by CCS-paneled providers, approved Special Care Centers (SCCs), and approved pediatric acute care hospitals. The WCM program will support active participation by parents and families of CCS-eligible members and ensure that members receive protections such as continuity of care (C.O.C.), oversight of network adequacy standards, and quality performance of providers.

WCM will be implemented in 21 specified counties, beginning July 1, 2018. Upon determination by DHCS of the MCPs' readiness to address the needs of the CCS-eligible members, MCPs must transition CCS-eligible members into their MCP network of providers by their scheduled implementation date as follows:

MCP	COHS Counties
Phase 1 – Implemented July 1, 2018	
CenCal Health	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara
Central California Alliance for Health	Merced, Monterey, Santa Cruz
Health Plan of San Mateo	San Mateo
Phase 2 – No sooner than January 1, 2019	
Partnership Health Plan	Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, Yolo
Phase 3 – No sooner than July 1, 2019	
CalOptima	Orange

POLICY:

Starting July 1, 2018, as designated above, MCPs assumed full financial responsibility, with some exceptions, of authorization and payment of CCS-eligible medical services, including service authorization activities, claims processing and payment, case management, and quality oversight.

Under the WCM, the MCP, county CCS program, and DHCS each bear responsibility for various administrative functions to support the CCS Program. Responsibilities for the CCS program's eligibility functions under the WCM are determined by whether the county CCS program operates as an independent or dependent county.⁵ Independent CCS counties will maintain responsibility for CCS program medical eligibility determinations for potential members, including responding to and tracking appeals relating to CCS program medical eligibility determinations and annual medical eligibility redeterminations. In dependent counties, DHCS will continue to maintain responsibility for CCS program medical eligibility determinations and redeterminations, while the county CCS programs will maintain responsibility for financial and residential eligibility

⁵ A link to the Division of Responsibility chart can be found on the CCS WCM website at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/CCSWwholeChildModel.aspx>

determinations and re-determinations. The MCP is responsible for providing all medical utilization and other clinical data for purposes of completing the annual medical redetermination and other medical determinations, as needed, for the CCS-eligible member.

MCPs are responsible for identifying and referring potential CCS-eligible members to the county for CCS program eligibility determination. MCPs are also required to provide services to CCS-eligible members with other health coverage, with full scope Medi-Cal as payor of last resort.

The implementation of WCM does not impact the activities and functions of the Medical Therapy Program (MTP). WCM counties participating with the MTP will continue to receive a separate allocation for this program and are responsible for care coordination of MTP services.

MCPs are required to use all current and applicable CCS program guidelines in the development of criteria for use by the MCP's chief medical officer or equivalent and other care management staff. CCS program guidelines include CCS program regulations, additional forthcoming regulations related to the WCM program, CCS N.L.s, and county CCS program information notices. Any N.L.s. that fall within the following Index Categories, as identified by DHCS, are applicable to WCM MCPs:⁶

Index Category
Authorizations/Benefits
Case Management
Pharmaceutical
Standards, Hospital/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

For these applicable N.L.s, the WCM MCP must assume the role of the county or state CCS program as described in the N.L. In addition to the requirements included in this APL, MCPs must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as all contractual requirements.

I. MCP AND COUNTY COORDINATION

MCPs and county CCS programs must coordinate the delivery of CCS services to CCS-eligible members. A quarterly meeting between the MCP and the county CCS program must be established to assist with overall coordination by updating policies, procedures,

⁶ See the WCM CCS N.L. Category List. is available at:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Documents/CCS-NL-Index-Category-List-June2018.xls>

and protocols, as appropriate, and to discuss activities related to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and other WCM related matters.

A. Memorandum of Understanding

MCPs and county CCS programs must execute a MOU outlining their respective responsibilities and obligations under the WCM using the MOU template posted on the CCS WCM page of the DHCS website.⁷ The purpose of the MOU is to explain how the MCPs and county CCS programs will coordinate care, conduct program management activities, and exchange information required for the effective and seamless delivery of services to WCM members. The MOU between the individual county and the MCP serves as the primary vehicle for ensuring collaboration between the MCP and county CCS program. The MOU can be customized based on the needs of the individual county CCS program and the MCP. The MOU must include, at a minimum, all of the provisions specified in the MOU template and must be consistent with the requirements of SB 586. MCPs are required to submit an executed MOU to DHCS 105 days prior to implementation. All WCM MOUs are subject to DHCS approval.

B. Transition Plan

Each MCP must develop a comprehensive plan detailing the transition of existing CCS members into managed care for treatment of their CCS-eligible conditions. The transition plan must describe collaboration between the MCP and the county CCS program on the transfer of case management, care coordination, provider referrals, and service authorization, including administrative functions, from the county CCS program to the MCPs.⁸ The transition plan must also include communication with members regarding, but not limited to, authorizations, provider network, case management, and ensuring C.O.C. and services for members who are in the process of aging out of CCS. The county CCS programs are required to provide input and collaborate with MCPs on the development of the transition plan. MCPs must submit transition plans to DHCS for approval.

C. Inter-County Transfer

County CCS programs use the Children's Medical Services Net (CMS Net) system to house and share data needed for Inter-County Transfers (ICTs), while MCPs utilize different data systems. Through their respective MOUs, the MCPs and county CCS programs will develop protocols for the exchange of ICT data, as necessary, including authorization data, member data, and case management information, to ensure an efficient transition of the CCS member and allow for C.O.C. of already approved service authorization requests, as required by this APL and applicable state and federal laws.

⁷ See footnote 5. The MOU template can be found on the CCS WCM website.

⁸ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.7(d)(4)(C).

When a CCS-eligible member moves from one county to another, the county CCS program and MCP, through their respective MOUs, will exchange ICT data. County CCS programs will continue to be responsible for providing transfer data, including clinical and other relevant data, from one county to another. When a CCS eligible member moves out of a WCM county, the county CCS program will notify the MCP and initiate the data transfer request. The MCP is responsible for providing transfer data, including clinical and other relevant data for members to the county CCS program office. The county CCS program will then coordinate the sharing of CCS-eligible member data to the new county of residence. Similarly, when a member moves into a WCM county, the county CCS program will provide transfer data to the MCP, as applicable.

D. Dispute Resolution and Provider Grievances

Disagreements between the MCP and the county CCS program regarding CCS medical eligibility determinations must be resolved by the county CCS program, in consultation with DHCS.⁹ The county CCS program must communicate all resolved disputes in writing to the MCP. Disputes between the MCP and the county CCS program that are unable to be resolved will be referred by either entity to DHCS, via email to CCSRedesign@dhcs.ca.gov, for review and final determination.¹⁰

MCPs must have a formal process to accept, acknowledge, and resolve provider disputes and grievances.¹¹ A CCS provider may submit a dispute or grievance concerning the processing of a payment or non-payment of a claim by the MCP directly to the MCP. The dispute resolution process must be communicated by each MCP to all of its CCS providers.

II. MCP RESPONSIBILITIES TO CCS-ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

A. Risk Level and Needs Assessment Process

The MCP must assess each CCS member's risk level and needs by performing a risk assessment process using means such as telephonic or in-person communication, review of utilization and claims processing data, or by other means. MCPs are required to develop and complete the risk assessment process for WCM transition members, newly CCS-eligible members, or new CCS members enrolling in the MCP. The risk assessment process must include the development of a pediatric risk stratification process (PRSP) and an Individual Care Plan (ICP) for high risk members. All requirements are dependent on the member's risk level that is determined through the PRSP. Furthermore, nothing in this APL removes or limits existing survey or assessment requirements that the MCPs are responsible for outside of the WCM.

⁹ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14093.06(b).

¹⁰ Unresolved disputes must be referred to: CCSRedesign@dhcs.ca.gov

¹¹ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.15(d).

1. Pediatric Risk Stratification Process

MCPs must develop a pediatric risk stratification mechanism, or algorithm, to assess the CCS-eligible member's risk level that will be used to classify members into high and low risk categories, allowing the MCP to identify members who have more complex health care needs.

MCPs are required to complete a risk stratification within 45 days of enrollment for all members including new CCS members enrolling in the MCP, newly CCS-eligible members, or WCM transition members. The risk stratification will assess the member's risk level through:

- Review of medical utilization and claims processing data, including data received from the county and DHCS;
- Utilization of existing member assessment or survey data; and
- Telephonic or in-person communications, if available at time of PRSP.

Members who do not have any medical utilization data, claims processing data history, or other assessments and/or survey information available will automatically be categorized as high risk until further assessment data is gathered to make an additional risk determination. The PRSP must be submitted to DHCS for review and approval.

2. Risk Assessment and Individual Care Plan Process

MCPs must develop a process to assess a member's current health, including the CCS condition, to ensure that each CCS-eligible member receives case management, care coordination, provider referral, and/or service authorization from a CCS-paneled provider, as described below:

New Members and Newly CCS-Eligible Members Determined High Risk

Members identified as high risk through the PRSP must be further assessed by telephonic and/or in-person communication or a risk assessment survey within 90 calendar days of enrollment to assist in the development of the member's ICP. Any risk assessment survey created by the MCP for the purposes of WCM is subject to review and approval by DHCS.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment process must address:

- General health status and recent health care utilization. This may include, but is not limited to, caretaker self-report of child's health; outpatient, emergency room, or inpatient visits; and school days missed due to illness, over a specified duration of time;

- Health history. This includes both CCS and non-CCS diagnoses and past surgeries;
- Specialty provider referral needs;
- Prescription medication utilization;
- Specialized or customized durable medical equipment (DME) needs (if applicable);
- Need for specialized therapies (if applicable). This may include, but is not limited to, physical, occupational, or speech therapies, mental or behavioral health services, and educational or developmental services;
- Limitations of activities of daily living or daily functioning (if applicable); and
- Demographics and social history. This may include, but is not limited to, member demographics, assessment of home and school environments, and a cultural and linguistic assessment.

The risk assessment process must be tailored to each CCS-eligible member's age group. At the MCP's discretion, additional assessment questions may be added to identify the need for, or impact of, future health care services. These may include, but are not limited to, questions related to childhood developmental milestones, pediatric depression, anxiety or attention deficit screening, adolescent substance use, or adolescent sexual behaviors.

Individual Care Plan

MCPs are required to establish an ICP for all members determined to be high risk based on the results of the risk assessment process, with particular focus on specialty care, within 90 days of a completed risk assessment survey or other assessment, by telephonic and/or in-person communication.¹² The ICP will, at a minimum, incorporate the CCS-eligible member's goals and preferences, and provide measurable objectives and timetables to meet the needs for:

- Medical (primary care and CCS specialty) services;
- Mild to moderate or county specialty mental health services;
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services;
- County substance use disorder or Drug Medi-Cal services;
- Home health services;
- Regional center services; and
- Other medically necessary services provided within the MCP network, or, when necessary, by an out-of-network provider.

¹² See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.11(b)(4).

The ICP must be developed by the MCP care management team and must be completed in collaboration with the CCS-eligible member, member's family, and/or the member's designated caregiver. The ICP must indicate the level of care the member requires (e.g., no case management, basic case management and care coordination, or complex case management). The ICP must also include the following information, as appropriate, and only if the information has not already been provided as part of another MCP process:¹³

- Access instructions for families so that families know where to go for ongoing information, education, and support in order that they may understand the goals, treatment plan, and course of care the CCS-eligible member and the family's role in the process; what it means to have primary or specialty care for the CCS-eligible member; when it is time to call a specialist, primary, urgent care, or emergency room; what an interdisciplinary team is; and what community resources exist;
- A primary or specialty care physician who is the primary clinician for the CCS-eligible member and who provides core clinical management functions;
- Care management and care coordination for the CCS-eligible member across the health care system, including transitions among levels of care and interdisciplinary care teams; and
- Provision of information about qualified professionals, community resources, or other agencies for services or items outside the scope of responsibility of the MCP.

Further, the MCP must reassess members' risk levels and needs annually at the CCS eligibility redetermination or upon a significant change to a member's condition.

New Members and Newly CCS-Eligible Members Determined Low Risk

For new members and newly CCS-eligible members identified as low risk, the MCP must assess the member by telephonic and/or in-person communication within 120 calendar days of enrollment to determine the member's health care needs. The MCP is still required to provide care coordination and case management services to low risk members.

The MCP must reassess members' risk levels and needs annually at CCS eligibility redetermination or upon a significant change to a member's condition.

¹³ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.11(c).

WCM Transitioning Members

For WCM transition members, the MCP must complete the PRSP within 45 days of transition, to determine each member's risk level, and complete all required telephonic and/or in-person communication and ICPs for high risk members, and all required telephonic and/or in-person communication for low risk members within one year. Additionally, the MCP must reassess members' risk levels and needs annually at CCS eligibility redetermination, or upon a significant change to a member's condition.

MCPs must submit to DHCS for review and approval a phase-in transition plan establishing a process for completing all required telephonic or in-person communication and ICPs within one year for WCM transition members.

Regardless a member's risk level, all communications, whether by phone or mail, must inform the members and/or the member's designated caregivers that assessments will be provided in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner, and identify the method by which the providers will arrange for in-person assessments.¹⁴

MCPs must refer all members, including new members, newly CCS-eligible members, and WCM transition members who may have developed a new CCS-eligible condition, immediately to the county for CCS eligibility determination and must not wait until the annual CCS medical eligibility redetermination period.

B. Case Management and Care Coordination¹⁵

MCPs must provide case management and care coordination for CCS-eligible members and their families. MCPs that delegate the provision of CCS services to subcontractors must ensure that all subcontractors provide case management and care coordination for members and allow members to access CCS-paneled providers within all of the MCP's subcontracted provider networks for CCS services. MCPs must ensure that information, education, and support is continuously provided to CCS-eligible members and their families to assist in their understanding of the CCS-eligible member's health, other available services, and overall collaboration on the CCS-eligible member's ICP. MCPs must also coordinate services identified in the member's ICP, including:

- Primary and preventive care services with specialty care services;
- Medical therapy units;

¹⁴ See Cultural Competency in Health Care – Meeting the Needs of a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Population APL 99-005. APLs are available at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/AllPlanLetters.aspx>

¹⁵ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.11(b)(1)-(6).

- EPSDT services, including palliative care;¹⁶
- Regional center services; and
- Home and community-based services.

1. High Risk Infant Follow-Up Program

The High Risk Infant Follow-Up (HRIF) program helps identify infants who might develop CCS-eligible conditions after they are discharged from a NICU. MCPs are responsible for determining HRIF program eligibility, coordinating and authorizing HRIF services for members, and ensuring the provision of HRIF case management services.¹⁷ MCPs must notify the counties in writing, within 15 calendar days, of CCS-eligible neonates, infants, and children up to three years of age that lose Medi-Cal coverage for HRIF services, and provide C.O.C. information to the members.

2. Age-Out Planning Responsibility

MCPs must establish and maintain a process for preparing members approaching WCM age limitations, including identification of primary care and specialty care providers appropriate to the member's CCS qualifying condition(s).

MCPs must identify and track CCS-eligible members for the duration of their participation in the WCM program and, for those who continue to be enrolled in the same MCP, for at least three years after they age-out of the WCM program.¹⁸

3. Pediatric Provider Phase-Out Plan

A pediatric phase-out occurs when a treating CCS-paneled provider determines that their services are no longer beneficial or appropriate to the treatment to the member. The MCPs must provide care coordination to CCS-eligible members in need of an adult provider when the CCS-eligible member no longer requires the service of a pediatric provider. The timing of the transition should be individualized to take into consideration the member's medical condition and the established need for care with adult providers.

¹⁶ If the scope of the federal EPSDT benefit is more generous than the scope of a benefit discussed in a CCS N.L. or other guidance, the EPSDT standard of what is medically necessary to correct or ameliorate the child's condition must be applied. See Requirements for Coverage of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services for Medi-Cal Members Under the Age of 21 APL 18-007, or any superseding APL.

¹⁷ HRIF Eligibility Criteria is available at:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/pages/hrif.aspx#medicalcriteria>

¹⁸ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.12(j).

C. Continuity of Care

MCPs must establish and maintain a process to allow members to request and receive C.O.C. with existing CCS provider(s) for up to 12 months.¹⁹ This APL does not alter the MCP's obligation to fully comply with the requirements of HSC Section 1373.96 and all applicable APLs regarding C.O.C.²⁰ The C.O.C. requirements extend to MCP's subcontractors. The sections below include additional C.O.C. requirements that only pertain to the WCM program.

1. Specialized or Customized Durable Medical Equipment

If the MCP member has an established relationship with a specialized or customized DME provider, MCPs must provide access to that provider for up to 12 months.²¹ MCPs are required to pay the DME provider at rates that are at least equal to the applicable CCS fee-for-service (FFS) rates, unless the DME provider and the MCP mutually enter into an agreement on an alternative payment methodology. The MCP may extend the C.O.C. period beyond 12 months for specialized or customized DME still under warranty and deemed medically necessary by the treating provider.²²

Specialized or customized DME must be:

- Uniquely constructed or substantially modified solely for the use of the member;
- Made to order or adapted to meet the specific needs of the member; and
- Uniquely constructed, adapted, or modified such that it precludes use of the DME by another individual and cannot be grouped with other items meant for the same use for pricing purposes.

2. Continuity of Care Case Management²³

MCPs must ensure CCS-eligible members receive expert case management, care coordination, service authorization, and provider referral services. MCPs can meet this requirement by allowing CCS-eligible members, their families, or designated caregivers, to request C.O.C. case management and care coordination from the CCS-eligible member's existing public health nurse (PHN). The member must elect to continue receiving case management from the PHN within 90 days of transition of CCS services to the MCP. In the event the county PHN is unavailable, the MCP must provide the member with an MCP case manager who has received adequate training on the county CCS

¹⁹ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.13.

²⁰ See footnote 3. HSC Section 1373.96.

²¹ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.12(f).

²² See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.13(b)(3).

²³ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.13(e), (f) and (g).

program and who has clinical experience with the CCS population or with pediatric patients with complex medical conditions.

At least 60 days before the transition of CCS services to the MCP, the MCP must provide a written notice to all CCS-eligible members explaining their right to continue receiving case management and care coordination services. The MCP must send a follow-up notice 30 days prior to the start of the transition. These notices must be submitted to DHCS for approval.

3. Authorized Prescription Drugs

CCS-eligible members transitioning into MCPs are allowed continued use of any currently prescribed drug that is part of their therapy for the CCS-eligible condition. The CCS-eligible member must be allowed to use the prescribed drug until the MCP and the prescribing physician agree that the particular drug is no longer medically necessary or is no longer prescribed by the county CCS program provider.²⁴

4. Extension of Continuity of Care Period²⁵

MCPs, at their discretion, may extend the C.O.C. period beyond the initial 12-month period. MCPs must provide CCS-eligible members with a written notification 60 days prior to the end of the C.O.C. period informing members of their right to request a C.O.C. extension and the WCM appeal process for C.O.C. limitations.

The notification must be submitted to DHCS for approval and must include:

- The member's right to request that the MCP extend of the C.O.C. period;
- The criteria that the MCP will use to evaluate the request; and
- The appeal process should the MCP deny the request (see section D below).

Including the WCM C.O.C. protections set forth above, MCP members also have C.O.C. rights under current state law as required in the Continuity of Care for Medi-Cal Members Who Transition Into Medi-Cal Managed Care APL 18-008, including any superseding APL.²⁶

²⁴ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.13(d)(2).

²⁵ See footnote 3. HSC Section 1373.96.

²⁶ See footnote 14. APL 18-008.

D. Grievance, Appeal, and State Fair Hearing Process

MCPs must ensure members are provided information on grievances, appeals, and state fair hearing (SFH) rights and processes. CCS-eligible members enrolled in managed care are provided the same grievance, appeal, and SFH rights as other MCP members. This will not preclude the right of the CCS member to appeal or be eligible for a fair hearing regarding the extension of a C.O.C. period.²⁷

MCPs must have timely processes for accepting and acting upon member grievances and appeals. Members appealing a CCS eligibility determination must appeal to the county CCS program. MCPs must also comply with the requirements pursuant to Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act.²⁸

As stated above, CCS-eligible members and their families/designated caregivers have the right to request extended C.O.C. with the MCP beyond the initial 12-month period. MCPs must process these requests like other standard or expedited prior authorization requests according to the timeframes contained in Grievance and Appeal Requirements and Revised Notice Templates and “Your Rights” Attachments APL 17-006, including any superseding APL.

If MCPs deny requests for extended C.O.C., they must inform members of their right to further appeal these denials with the MCP and of the member’s SFH rights following the appeal process as well as in cases of deemed exhaustion. MCPs must follow all noticing and timing requirements contained in APL 17-006, including any superseding APL, when denying extended C.O.C. requests and when processing appeals. As required in APL 17-006, if MCPs make changes to any of the noticing templates, they must submit the revised notices to DHCS for review and approval prior to use.

E. Transportation

MCPs are responsible for authorizing CCS Maintenance and Transportation (M&T), Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), and Non-Medical Transportation (NMT).²⁹

MCPs must provide and authorize the CCS M&T benefit for CCS-eligible members or the member’s family seeking transportation to a medical service related to their CCS-eligible condition when the cost of M&T presents a barrier to accessing authorized CCS services. M&T services include meals, lodging, and other necessary

²⁷ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.13(j).

²⁸ See footnote 14. For Section 1557 requirements, see Standards for Determining Threshold Languages and Requirements for Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act APL 17-011, including any superseding APL.

²⁹ See Non-Emergency Medical and Non-Medical Transportation Services APL 17-010, including any superseding APL.

costs (e.g. parking, tolls, etc.), in addition to transportation expenses, and must comply with the requirements listed in CCS N.L. 03-0810.³⁰ These services include, but are not limited to, M&T for out-of-county and out-of-state services.

MCPs must also comply with all requirements listed in the Non-Emergency Medical and Non-Medical Transportation Services APL 17-010 for CCS-eligible members to obtain NEMT and NMT for services not related to their CCS-eligible condition or if the member requires standard transportation that does not require M&T.³¹

F. Out-of-Network Access

MCPs must provide all medically necessary services by CCS paneled providers, which may require the member to be seen out of network. MCPs must allow CCS-eligible members access to out-of-network providers in order to obtain medically necessary services if the MCP has no specialists that treat the CCS-eligible condition within the MCP's provider network, or if in-network providers are unable to meet timely access standards. CCS-eligible members and providers are required to follow the MCP's authorization policy and procedures to obtain appropriate approvals before accessing an out-of-network provider. MCPs must ensure that CCS-eligible members requesting services from out-of-network providers are provided accurate information on how to request and seek approval for out-of-network services. MCPs cannot deny out-of-network services based on cost or location. Transportation must be provided for members obtaining out-of-network services. These out-of-network access requirements also apply to the MCP's subcontractor's provider networks.

The MCP and their subcontracted provider networks must ensure members have access to all medically necessary services related to their CCS condition. If CCS-eligible members require services or treatments for a CCS condition that are not available in the MCP's or their subcontracted provider networks, the MCP must identify, coordinate, and provide access to a CCS-paneled specialist out-of-network.

G. Advisory Committees

MCPs must establish a quarterly Family Advisory Committee (FAC) for CCS families composed of a diverse group of families that represent a range of conditions, disabilities, and demographics. The FAC must also include local providers, including, but not limited to, parent centers, such as family resource centers, family empowerment centers, and parent training and information

³⁰ See footnote 1. CCS N.L. 03-0810.

³¹ See footnote 14. APL 17-010.

centers.³² Members serving on this advisory committee may receive a reasonable per diem payment to enable in-person participation in the advisory committee.³³ A representative of this committee will be invited to serve as a member of the statewide DHCS CCS stakeholder advisory group.

MCPs must also establish a quarterly Clinical Advisory Committee composed of the MCP's chief medical officer or equivalent, the county CCS medical director, and at least four CCS-paneled providers to advise on clinical issues relating to CCS conditions.³⁴

III. WCM Payment Structure

A. Payment and Fee Rate

MCPs are required to pay providers at rates that are at least equal to the applicable CCS FFS rates, unless the provider and the MCP mutually enter into an agreement on an alternative payment methodology.³⁵ MCPs are responsible for authorization and payment of all NICU and CCS NICU claims and for conducting NICU acuity assessments and authorizations in all WCM counties.

The MCP will review authorizations and determine whether or not services meet CCS NICU requirements.

The chart below identifies the entity responsible for NICU acuity assessment, authorization, and payment function activities for WCM:

CCS NICU	NICU Acuity Assessment	Authorization	Payor (Facility/Physician)
Carved-In Counties: 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, and Yolo	MCP	MCP	MCP

³² See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.7(d)(3).
³³ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.17(b)(2).
³⁴ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.17(a).
³⁵ See footnote 4. WIC Section 14094.16(b).

IV. MCP Responsibilities to DHCS

A. Network Certification³⁶

MCPs and their subcontractors are required to meet specific network certification requirements in order to participate in WCM, which includes having an adequate network of CCS-paneled providers to serve the CCS-eligible population including physicians, specialists, allied professionals, SCCs, hospitals, home health agencies, and specialized and customizable DME providers.

The WCM network certification requires MCPs to submit updated policies and procedures and their CCS-paneled provider networks via a WCM Provider Network Reporting Template.³⁷

Subcontracted provider networks that do not meet WCM network certification requirements will be excluded from participating in the WCM until DHCS determines that all certification requirements have been met. MCPs are required to provide oversight and monitoring of all subcontractors' provider networks to ensure network certification requirements for WCM are met.

In accordance with Network Certification Requirements APL 18-005, or any other superseding APL, WCM MCPs may request to add a subcontractor to their WCM network 105 days prior to the start of each contract year.

B. CCS Paneling and Provider Credentialing Requirements

Physicians and other provider types must be CCS-paneled with full or provisional approval status.³⁸ MCPs cannot panel CCS providers; however, they must ensure that CCS providers in their provider network have an active panel status. MCPs should direct providers who need to be paneled to the CCS Provider Paneling website.³⁹ MCPs can view the DHCS CCS-paneled provider list online to ensure providers are credentialed and continue contracting with additional CCS-paneled providers.⁴⁰

MCPs are required to verify the credentials of all contracted CCS-paneled

³⁶ See footnote 14. These requirements are further outlined in the Network Certification Requirements APL.

³⁷ See footnote 14. The WCM Provider Network Reporting Template is an attachment of APL 18-005.

³⁸ See the Medi-Cal Provider Manual on CCS Provider Paneling Requirements, which is available at: https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-mtp/part2/calchildpanel_m00i00o03o04o07o09o11a02a04a05a06a07a08p00v00.doc

³⁹ Children's Medical Services CCS Provider Paneling is available at: <https://cmsprovider.cahwnet.gov/PANEL/index.jsp>

⁴⁰ The CCS Paneled Providers List is available at: <https://cmsprovider.cahwnet.gov/prv/pnp.pdf>

providers to ensure the providers are actively CCS-paneled and authorized to treat CCS-eligible members. MCPs' written policies and procedures must follow the credentialing and recredentialing guidelines contained in the Provider Credentialing/Recredentialing and Screening Enrollment APL 17-019, or any superseding APL. MCPs must develop and maintain written policies and procedures that pertain to the initial credentialing, recredentialing, recertification, and reappointment of providers within their network.

C. Utilization Management

MCPs must develop, implement, and update, as needed, a utilization management (UM) program that ensures appropriate processes are used to review and approve medically necessary covered services. MCPs are responsible for ensuring that the UM program includes the following items:⁴¹

- Procedures for pre-authorization, concurrent review, and retrospective review;
- A list of services requiring prior authorization and the utilization review criteria;
- Procedures for the utilization review appeals process for providers and members;
- Procedures that specify timeframes for medical authorization; and
- Procedures to detect both under- and over-utilization of health care services.

MCP Reporting Requirements

1. Quality Performance Measures

DHCS will develop pediatric plan performance standards and measurements, including health outcomes of children with special health care needs. MCPs are required to report data on the identified performance measures in a format and manner specified by DHCS.

2. Reporting and Monitoring

DHCS has developed specific monitoring and oversight standards for MCPs participating in the WCM. MCPs are required to report WCM encounters as outlined in the most recent DHCS Companion Guide for X12 Standard File Format for encounter data reporting. MCPs are also required to report all contracted CCS-paneled providers as outlined in the most recent DHCS Companion Guide for X12 Standard File Format for provider network data. Both companion guides can be attained by emailing the Encounter Data mailbox at MMCDEncounterData@dhcs.ca.gov. MCPs must submit additionally required

⁴¹ See the COHS Boilerplate Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment 5, Utilization Management. The COHS Boilerplate Contract is available at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MMCDBoilerplateContracts.aspx>

data in a form and manner specified by DHCS and must comply with all contractual requirements.

D. Delegation of Authority

In addition to the requirements of this APL, MCPs are responsible for complying with, and ensuring that their delegates also comply with, all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, contract requirements, and other DHCS guidance, including other APLs, Policy Letters, and Dual Plan Letters. Each MCP must communicate these requirements to all delegated entities and subcontractors. In addition, MCPs must comply with all requirements listed in the Subcontractual Relationships and Delegation APL 17-004, or any superseding APL. If you have any questions regarding this APL, please contact your Managed Care Operations Division contract manager.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Nathan Nau

Nathan Nau, Chief
Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division