



The Coordinated Care Initiative

Update on General Readiness

August 2013

Care Coordination

In the two years since the passage of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), outstanding strides have been made to better coordinate care for beneficiaries in the eight demonstration counties. At the local level, health plans, providers, beneficiaries, and community organizations are talking to each other about how to solve issues that were previously unaddressed, including but not limited to:

- Coordinating behavioral health services into the larger set of delivered services;
- Identifying ways that social supports, such as In Home Supports and Services (IHSS) and Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP), can help ensure independence and better health outcomes; and,
- Establishing information exchanges while safeguarding privacy and ensuring that previously siloed systems are working together.

Workgroups on the state and local level have been established to discuss the many topics of interest related to CCI. These groups have participation from numerous stakeholders and work together (in some cases, on a daily basis) to change the status quo of fragmented care and a system that beneficiaries and their families are all too often left to navigate on their own.

Plan Readiness

The CCI is designed to incentivize plans to provide coordinated, person-centered care that avoids or delays placement in nursing facilities, pursuant to the wishes of the individual beneficiary. Plans are being assessed against a robust set of readiness criteria that have been released publicly. In addition, plans are also required to offer a set of benefits that includes vision and non-emergency medical transportation services. These supplemental benefits go beyond what is currently available to dual eligible beneficiaries in fee-for-service Medicare.

Readiness reviews are being conducted by the State and federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). These efforts began with the development of the readiness review criteria in 2012. Plans have undergone several initial stages of evaluation including the desk review and site visit portions of the readiness review. Areas for potential improvement have been noted. Only plans that pass readiness review will be a part of Cal MediConnect.