

# MHLA PROVIDER BULLETIN # 12 – Older Adults Medi-Cal Expansion

April 25, 2022



This is to provide you with details on the Older Adult Medi-Cal Expansion for My Health LA (MHLA) Participants. Beginning May 1, 2022, a new law in California extends Full-Scope Medi-Cal to adults age 50 and older regardless of immigration status. The expansion of Medi-Cal to eligible older adults is modeled after the Young Adult Expansion which provided Full-Scope Medi-Cal to young adults 19 through 25 regardless of immigration status.

MHLA has nearly 60,000 older adults who are eligible for the Medi-Cal Expansion. MHLA worked internally and with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and has identified roughly 37,000 out of 60,000 MHLA older adults already enrolled in Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal. A list was emailed to all CPs identifying participants enrolled in Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal and those that are not yet enrolled. MHLA encourages CPs to continue working with those not yet enrolled to make sure they get signed up for Medi-Cal.

## ■ Disenrollment and Automatic Renewals:

- On **May 1, 2022**, MHLA participants enrolled in Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal will transitioned to Full-Scope Medi-Cal and disenrolled from MHLA. They will not be required to submit a new Medi-Cal application.
- The remainder, approximately 23,000 who were identified as **not** enrolled in Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal, will continue to be enrolled in MHLA until July 31, 2022. MHLA will automatically renew these participants that have renewals in April, May, and June and extend their coverage through July 31, 2022.
- On **August 1, 2022**, all participants 50 and older will be disenrolled from MHLA.
- After August 1<sup>st</sup>, MHLA will disenroll participants who turn 50 at the end of their birthday month. For example, if an individual is turning 50 on August 12<sup>th</sup>, MHLA will disenroll that individual by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## ■ Age Eligibility:

- Starting May 1, 2022, adults 50 years and older will no longer be eligible for MHLA or any of its services.
- Individuals 50 and older also will not be able to apply for MHLA; the One-E-App system will stop accepting application for anyone 50 years and older.
- Beginning on May 1, 2022, the eligibility requirement for MHLA will be 26-49 years old.

## ■ Written Notices:

- The first notice was sent on February 9<sup>th</sup> to all MHLA participants 50 years and older, informing them that they would be eligible for Full-Scope Medi-Cal on May 1.
- A second notice will be sent to those MHLA participants who did not transition to Full-Scope Medi-Cal on May 1<sup>st</sup>, reminding them to enroll in Medi-Cal and letting them know that they will be disenrolled from MHLA by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Participants who are being disenrolled on May 1<sup>st</sup> will receive a notice that they no longer meet the age requirement to be eligible for MHLA.

■ **Additional Communications:**

- MHLA program has sent text and robocalls to all 50 and older participants who provided permission to receive phone messages.
- MHLA has developed a flyer regarding this transition that is available on the MHLA website in English and Spanish <https://dhs.lacounty.gov/my-health-la/enrollment-one-e-app/#1642784550523-cc9ddfd4-2fde>.

■ **Active Member Lookup Tool:**

- We encourage all clinics to reach out to those participants who have not applied for Medi-Cal and emphasize how important it is to apply for Medi-Cal.
- The Active Member Lookup Tool was designed to assist your clinic’s System Administrator with:
  - Looking up the next renewal date for each participant.
  - Figure out who is age 50 and older or 49 about to turn 50.
  - Here is the link to a training video on the tool <https://youtu.be/xlTs2cS1Pys>

■ **Specialty Care Services at DHS:**

Under the Older Adult Expansion that takes effective May 1, eligible MHLA participants who are 50 years and older will be able to enroll in a Medi-Cal managed care plan (MCP) and select primary care providers. DHS is committed to a smooth transition for these MHLA participants as they move into MCPs. The best place for patients to receive care after enrollment in their MCP is within their contracted MCP network. All patients are encouraged to rapidly establish primary and specialty care within their new network.

DHS recommends that referral coordinators and primary care providers carefully review the urgency of any upcoming specialty care visits or new eConsult referrals. Please see below on the DHS process for both eConsults and specialty visit scheduling.

➤ **Submitting new eConsults:**

- After May 1, CPs should not submit new eConsults for MHLA participants 50+ who are being disenrolled from the program on May 1. MHLA is disenrolling about 37,000 participants that day who are already on Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal.
- CPs can continue submitting eConsults for MHLA participants who are still uninsured and enrolled in the program, but please be judicious about when to do so. All MHLA participants 50 + will be disenrolled from the program by August 1.

➤ **Specialty Visit Scheduling:**

Insurance status	Starting May 1
Uninsured	Will be referred to the DHS team for Medi-Cal enrollment and will be scheduled for the visit.
Enrolled in Restricted-Scope Medi-Cal/Medi-Cal FFS	Will be scheduled for the visit. <i>Note: DHS recommends CPs review urgency of eConsults and look toward establishing care in MCP network.</i>

Enrolled in a non-DHS MCP	<p>DHS will either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage them to establish care in their new plan network and cancel the visit or</li> <li>2. Offer them the opportunity to switch to DHS for primary care so they can get both primary care and specialty care together at DHS and schedule the visit</li> </ol> <p>In certain cases (mainly for Time-Sensitive or High-Risk conditions), DHS may offer to submit a continuity of care request so they can stay with DHS just for specialty care. The visit will be pending until the continuity of care request is approved. <i>Note: CPs may work with their IPAs and MCPs to submit continuity of care requests and should notify MHLA (see below).</i></p>
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➤ **DHS Process for Patients with Time-Sensitive or High-Risk Conditions:**

- DHS is sensitive to the challenges of navigating new MCP enrollment and accessing care in a new MCP network, especially for the highest risk and most vulnerable patients. In response, DHS is developing a pathway to try to identify and support patients with time-sensitive or high-risk conditions to maintain continuity of care as they transition to their new provider network.
- These patients may include:
  - Patients currently engaged in cancer treatment (e.g. chemotherapy, infusion, radiation).
  - Patients with active specialty care conditions requiring recent acute care utilization (e.g., decompensated heart failure with hospitalization or ED visit in the past month).
  - Patients on high-risk medications (e.g., patients on biologics/immunosuppressants).
  - Patients with time-sensitive scheduled surgeries or procedures on a case-by-case basis.

➤ **CP Process if Providers are Concerned about a Patient:**

- Please email [myhealthla@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:myhealthla@dhs.lacounty.gov) **securely** if you have submitted a continuity of care request or if you are concerned about a MHLA participant with a time-sensitive or high-risk condition. Please put 'Specialty Care' in the subject line. Please include the name, date of birth, MHLA PID, assigned medical home, your contact and the specific concern.

Please contact your Program Advocate if you have any questions about the Older Adult Expansion.