



Provider Alert

To: Sharp Health Plan Providers and Provider Office Staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: February 23, 2022
Subject: All Plan Letter APL 22-031

Attention Provider Partners,

This communication is to inform you of the newly enacted California state legislation covered in All Plan Letter APL 22-031.

We have identified and highlighted the following legislation that has a higher impact:

SB 1473: Healthcare Coverage

- Out-of-network (OON) providers are prohibited from; balance billing members for COVID diagnostic or screening testing and reporting adverse information to a consumer credit reporting agency or commencement of civil action. The Plan is not required to cover OON COVID health care services related to testing.

SB 225: Timely Access to Care

- Effective January 1, 2023, the Plan is required to incorporate timely access standards into its quality assurance systems. Allows DMHC to take disciplinary action including assessment of administrative penalties for any noncompliance with any provisions.

SB 1207: Maternal and Pandemic-Related Mental Health Conditions

- Effective July 1, 2023, the Plan is required to develop a maternal mental health program designed to promote quality and cost-effective outcomes, including quality measures to encourage screening, diagnosis, treatment, and referral. Includes coverage for doulas, incentive training opportunities for contracted obstetricians, and education for enrollees in the program.

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SB 245: Abortion Services

- Effective January 1, 2023, this bill prevents the collection of any cost-sharing including copays for any abortion or abortion-related services, for non-high deductible health plans. Prohibits any utilization management, prior authorization, or annual or lifetime limits for abortion services.

SB 523: Contraceptive Equity Act of 2022

- Effective January 1, 2024, the Plan must provide coverage for the following services and contraceptive methods for members. A prescription is not required to trigger coverage. Point-of-sale coverage must be provided at in-network pharmacies without cost-sharing or medical management restrictions. The Plan shall not impose restrictions or delays on vasectomy services and procedures.

SB 923: Gender-Affirming Care

- Within 6 months after the Department issues guidance and no later than March 1, 2025. Providers and office staff must complete evidence-based cultural competency training for the purpose of providing trans-inclusive health care for individuals who identify as transgender, gender diverse, or intersex (TGI). The plan provider directory must include information identifying which in-network providers offer: Gender-affirming services.

AB 2581: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Providers

- Effective January 1, 2023, this bill establishes new requirements for credentialing mental health and substance use disorders providers. Provider qualifications must be verified and assessed within 60 days of receiving a completed credentialing application. Upon receipt of an application, applicants should be notified within seven business days that the application is complete.

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Discussion of each bill may be found in the APL on the pages identified in the table below:

Bill	Title	Page #
AB 988	Mental health: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline	2
AB 1982	Telehealth: dental care	4
AB 2127	Health care coverage: dependent adults	5
AB 2134	Reproductive health care	6
AB 2205	California Health Benefit Exchange: abortion coverage reporting	7
AB 2352	Prescription drug coverage	7
AB 2581	Health care coverage: mental health and substance use disorders: provider credentials	11
AB 2585	Nonpharmacological pain management treatment	12
SB 107	Gender-affirming health care	13
SB 225	Health care coverage: timely access to care	14
SB 245	Health care coverage: abortion services: cost-sharing	17
SB 523	Contraceptive Equity Act of 2022	18
SB 858	Health care service plans: discipline: civil penalties	24
SB 923	Gender-affirming care	25
SB 979	Health emergencies	26
SB 1207	Health care coverage: maternal and pandemic-related mental health conditions	27
SB 1338	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program	29
SB 1419	Health Information	31
SB 1473	Health care coverage	33

An overview of bills in APL 22-031 and other 2023 enacted legislation can be found on the DMHC website at www.dhmc.ca.gov or <http://bit.ly/3x3czkd>.

Questions? Please contact Sharp Health Plan Provider Account Management by email at provider.relations@sharp.com or by phone at 1-858-499-8330. Thank you for your partnership.

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