



The Coordinated Care Initiative and PACE

Fact Sheet | Updated May 2013

California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), adopted in July 2012, promotes integrated delivery of medical, behavioral, and long-term care Medi-Cal services, and also provides a road map to integrate Medicare and Medi-Cal for people on both programs, called "dual eligible beneficiaries."

The CCI will be implemented in 2014 in eight counties: Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino.

The CCI includes two parts: 1) Mandatory enrollment of all Medi-Cal beneficiaries (including dual eligible beneficiaries) into managed care for all Medi-Cal benefits, including long-term services and supports (LTSS¹); and 2) optional enrollment into integrated managed care that combines Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits, known as Cal MediConnect.

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a national vanguard in integrated care delivery to Medicare and Medicaid enrollees (dual eligible beneficiaries). An independently operated model of care delivered by nonprofit organizations, PACE provides all needed preventative, primary, acute, and long-term services and supports (LTSS) to older adults who otherwise would reside in nursing facilities. The PACE model allows enrollees to remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible.

The CCI complements the PACE model by aiming to expand the benefits of integrated care to more beneficiaries. This fact sheet briefly describes how PACE organizations will be supported during implementation of the CCI.

PACE in California

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has supported efforts to expand the number of PACE organizations in California and worked with existing PACE organizations to expand their service capacity and enrollment. Medi-Cal contracts with five PACE organizations, with four additional organizations scheduled for implementation in fiscal year (FY) 2012/13.

Currently, PACE serves about 3,350 dual eligible beneficiaries in seven CCI counties: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego and Santa Clara. The CCI county with no PACE site is San Mateo.²

¹ LTSS include In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP), Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS), and nursing facilities.

² PACE programs also operate in San Francisco, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties.

To be eligible for PACE, a person must be 55 years or older, reside in a PACE service area, require nursing home level of care (as determined by the State), and be able to live safely at home or in the community.

Coordinated Care Initiative Enrollment and PACE

Under the CCI, individuals enrolled in PACE will be excluded from enrollment into Medi-Cal managed care plans and exempt from passive enrollment into a Cal MediConnect health plan for coordinated Medicare and Medi-Cal services. Current PACE enrollees will not receive enrollment materials for any part of the CCI.

DHCS will ensure PACE is an enrollment option for beneficiaries. Medi-Cal only and dual eligible beneficiaries age 55 and older living in a zip code served by a PACE organization will receive an enrollment packet that includes PACE on the health plan choice form. Beneficiaries who choose PACE as an enrollment choice must still choose a back-up Medi-Cal managed care or Cal MediConnect health plan in case they do not meet the eligibility criteria for PACE or they decide not to enroll in PACE. DHCS also will ensure that PACE is included in all enrollment assistance and beneficiary outreach efforts provided by Health Care Options, the section of DHCS that manages enrollment.

Once the beneficiary notifies Health Care Options of his or her choice to enroll in PACE, a 60-day clock starts during which the PACE assessment process must be completed. If the beneficiary is found eligible for PACE, the local PACE organization will complete the enrollment process. If the beneficiary is found ineligible for PACE, he or she will be enrolled into the back-up Medi-Cal managed care or Cal MediConnect health plan previously selected.

PACE and Health Plans Working Together

Under the CCI, participating health plans acknowledge the PACE model's value and have identified local PACE organizations as important partners in providing coordinated care. Several participating health plans are coordinating with local PACE organizations to identify nursing home-eligible enrollees and proactively present PACE as an option. Subject to PACE program waiver, health plans may also purchase day center or care management services from PACE sites.