
Medi-Cal Program

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Medi-Cal, California's medical assistance Medicaid program, became effective in March 1966. In July 1965, two major amendments to the Social Security Act greatly expanded the scope of medical coverage available to various segments of the population. Title XVIII established the Medicare program, and Title XIX established the State-option medical assistance program known as Medicaid that provided Federal matching funds to states implementing a single comprehensive medical care program.

California legislation implementing the Title XIX program was signed in November 1965. Under the provisions of Title 22 of the *California Code of Regulations*, the Department of Health Care Services administers the Medi-Cal program and has statutory responsibility to formulate policy that conforms to Federal and State requirements.

The objective of the Medi-Cal program is to provide essential medical care and services to preserve health, alleviate sickness, and mitigate handicapping conditions for individuals or families on public assistance, or whose income is not sufficient to meet their individual needs. The covered services are generally recognized as standard medical services required in the treatment or prevention of diseases, disability, infirmity or impairment. These services are comprehensive and provide care in the major disciplines of health care.

From the inception of the Medi-Cal program, the State has contracted with a Fiscal Intermediary (FI) to receive and process Medi-Cal claims. «As of October 1, 2020, the new FI, Gainwell Technologies», assumed Medi-Cal operations.

<<Legend>>

<<Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.>>

Symbol	Description
<<	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
>>	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.