

On January 1, 2024, Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) across California will be required to cover adult and pediatric subacute care services. This fact sheet provides information for facilities that want to receive Medi-Cal subacute care reimbursement, which requires that they contract with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Subacute Contracting Unit (SCU).

**If your facility is not contracted with DHCS' SCU, please contact us as soon as possible at [Subacute2@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Subacute2@dhcs.ca.gov) to request an application for participation in the Medi-Cal Subacute Care Program.**

### Subacute Care: Definitions

Subacute care patients are medically fragile and require special services and medical equipment, including but not limited to inhalation therapy, tracheotomy care, intravenous tube feeding, and complex wound management. Subacute level of care is needed by a patient who does not require hospital acute care, but who requires more intensive licensed skilled nursing care than is provided to the majority of patients in a skilled nursing facility (SNF).

- » **Adult subacute care** is a level of care needed by a patient who does not require hospital acute care but who requires more intensive licensed skilled nursing care than is provided to the majority of patients in a skilled nursing facility.
- » **Pediatric subacute care** is a level of care needed by a person less than 21 years of age who uses a medical technology that compensates for the loss of a vital bodily function.

### Medi-Cal Subacute Care Program and California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a long-term commitment to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal, offering Californians a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectory. CalAIM seeks to move Medi-Cal to a more consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity and increasing flexibility through benefit standardization.

Current State
<p>Currently, MCPs have varying levels of coverage for adult and pediatric subacute care services across the state dependent on the plan model type in the county.</p>

Future State
<p>Effective January 1, 2024, DHCS will require non-dual and dual Long Term Care Members (including those with a Share of Cost) receiving adult or pediatric subacute care services to be enrolled in an MCP. MCPs in all counties must authorize and cover Medically Necessary subacute care services.</p>

**Facilities Contracting with DHCS for Subacute Care**

Effective January 1, 2024, MCPs must ensure that if a Member needs adult or pediatric subacute care services, they are placed in a facility that is under contract for subacute care with DHCS’ SCU or is actively in the process of applying for a contract with DHCS’ SCU. MCPs are not required to contract with facilities that do not have a current Medi-Cal Subacute Care Program contract or have not submitted an initial application to the Medi-Cal Subacute Care Program. The list of the currently contracted providers is available on the Medi-Cal Subacute website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/Subacute.aspx>. DHCS will provide MCPs with a list of facilities that have submitted an initial application to the Medi-Cal Subacute Care Program.

This requirement ensures that facilities receiving Medi-Cal subacute care reimbursement meet certain standards and that Members residing in these facilities do not experience disruptions in access to care.

**If your facility is not already contracted with DHCS’ SCU, please request an application from [Subacute2@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Subacute2@dhcs.ca.gov) as soon as possible.**