## **Provider Bulletin**

### Molina Healthcare of California

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February 19, 2024

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## The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule for CY2024 – Appointment Wait Time Standards

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to the Medicare line of business.

### What you need to know:

CMS remains committed to emphasizing the critical role that access to behavioral health plays in whole-person care. In line with CMS' Behavioral Health Strategy and the Administration's strategy to address the national mental health crisis, CMS is strengthening behavioral health network adequacy in Medicare Advantage by adding clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers to the list of evaluated specialties.

CMS codifies appointment wait time standards for primary care and behavioral health services that are the same as those described in MMCM Chapter 4 (i) urgently needed services or emergency - immediately; (ii) services that are not emergency or urgently needed but require medical attention - within 7 business days; and (iii) routine and preventive care-within 30 business days.

In addition, CMS is requiring most types of Medicare Advantage plans to include behavioral health services in care coordination programs, ensuring that behavioral health care is a core part of person-centered care planning

## When this is happening:

Effective January 1, 2024.

#### **Provider Action**

#### **Important Reference Links:**

 View fact sheet on Final Rule: https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/f act-sheets/2024-medicareadvantage-and-part-d-final-rulecms-4201-f

# Thank you for serving Molina members!



## What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Relations Representative below.

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