

THE COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE: Understanding the Duals Special Needs Plan (D-SNP)¹

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Acknowledgments

Supported by a grant from The SCAN Foundation – advancing a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. For more information, visit www.TheSCANFoundation.org.

Definitions

Medicare Advantage Plan (MA Plan) – a Medicare health plan offered by a private company that provides Part A and Part B benefits, and usually Part D. MA plans can be HMOs or PPOs.

Duals Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) – a special Medicare Advantage plan for dual eligible beneficiaries aimed at serving their particular needs.

- **Cal MediConnect D-SNP (CMC D-SNP)** – a D-SNP operated by a health plan that also offers a Cal MediConnect Plan.
- **Non-Cal MediConnect D-SNP (Non-CMC D-SNP)** – a D-SNP operated by a health plan that does not offer a Cal MediConnect plan.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SNPs

CMC D-SNP

- CareMore Connect

Non-CMC D-SNP

- Care1st Total Dual Plan
- Senior Advantage (Kaiser)

My client is in a CMC D-SNP ...

- She is subject to passive enrollment into the corresponding Cal MediConnect plan on January 1, 2015.
- She cannot stay in her D-SNP. She can join Cal MediConnect, return to fee-for-service Medicare, or choose a non-D-SNP MA plan. With the latter two, she must pick a Medi-Cal plan.
- The CMC D-SNP cannot enroll new dual eligibles after December 31, 2014, unless the dual eligible is excluded from Cal MediConnect (e.g., a regional center client).

¹ See SB 857; § 14132.277; All Plan Letter 14-007 (Jul. 11, 2014)

My client is in a Non-CMC D-SN ...

- She is not subject to passive enrollment into a Cal MediConnect plan if she is enrolled in the Non-CMC D-SNP before December 31, 2014.²
- She will still have to choose a Medi-Cal plan starting in January 2015, by birth month.
- She can be enrolled in a non-matching Medi-Cal plan. For example, Care1st does not offer a Medi-Cal plan. Therefore, she will be enrolled in two different managed care plans: Care1st for Medicare and a non-matching Medi-Cal plan.
- Non-CMC D-SNPs cannot enroll new dual eligibles after December 31, 2014, unless the dual eligible is excluded from Cal MediConnect (e.g., a regional center client.)
- If she enrolls in a Non-CMC D-SNP prior to December 31, 2014, later voluntarily joins a Cal MediConnect plan and then disenrolls from Cal MediConnect, she can return to the Non-CMC D-SNP.

My client is in an Non-D-SNP MA Plan ...

- She is not subject to passive enrollment into a Cal MediConnect plan if she is enrolled in the Non-D-SNP MA Plan before December 31, 2014. See Footnote 2.
- She will still have to choose a Medi-Cal plan starting in January 2015, by birth month.
- She can be enrolled in a non-matching Medi-Cal plan. For example, she can be enrolled in Easy Choice's MA plan for Medicare and in a non-matching Medi-Cal plan.
- MA Plans are able to enroll new dual eligibles into their plans after December 31, 2014, regardless of Cal MediConnect eligibility.

My client is in Kaiser D-SNP ...

- She is not subject to passive enrollment into a Cal MediConnect plan if she is enrolled in the Kaiser D-SNP before December 31, 2014. See Footnote 2.
- She will still have to choose a Medi-Cal plan starting in January 2015, by birth month. The matching Medi-Cal plan in Santa Clara County is the Santa Clara Family Health Plan.
- Kaiser D-SNP cannot enroll dual eligibles after December 31, 2014, unless the dual eligible is excluded from Cal MediConnect (e.g., regional center client).
- **EXCEPTION:** Kaiser can enroll **newly** eligible duals into the Kaiser D-SNP. For example, if a beneficiary is enrolled in Kaiser's Medi-Cal plan and later becomes eligible for Medicare, the beneficiary can enroll in Kaiser's D-SNP regardless of Cal MediConnect eligibility.

²To be enrolled in a D-SNP as of 12/31/14, the beneficiary must submit the enrollment prior to December 1, 2014.

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