

PROVIDERUpdate



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2026 Medicare Advantage and D-SNP Updates: What Providers Need to Know

County changes, plan terminations and member impacts

Starting January 1, 2026, key updates will impact Medicare Advantage (MA), Dual Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and Chronic Special Needs Plans (C-SNPs). This guide outlines county-specific transitions, benefit changes and operational updates to help providers support members effectively.

County-level plan changes

Plan transitions due to exclusively aligned enrollment (EAE)

Wellcare By Health Net (Health Net*) will transition D-SNP members to different plan benefit packages (PBPs) based on county of residence.

- **Aligned plan transition (H3561-008)**

Members in the following counties will be passively enrolled in the aligned Wellcare Health Net Dual Align plan. Their Medi-Cal coverage will also transition to Health Net Medi-Cal. Both transitions will be completed by the health plan and the State – *no action is required from members.*

- Amador
- Calaveras
- San Joaquin
- Stanislaus
- Tuolumne

- **Non-aligned plan transition (H3561-009)**

Members in the following counties will move to the Wellcare Dual Liberty plan. Their Medi-Cal coverage will remain with a different health plan.

- Imperial
- Kern
- Placer
- San Francisco

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers
- Behavioral Health Providers

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- Wellcare By Health Net
 - Medicare Advantage (HMO)

PROVIDER SERVICES

provider_services@healthnet.com

Medicare (individual & employer group)
(Wellcare By Health Net) – 800-929-9224

Medicare Supplement – 800-641-7761

Behavioral Health providers –
844-966-0298

PROVIDER PORTAL

provider.healthnetcalifornia.com

New county additions

- **D-SNP expansion** – Coverage will extend to:
 - Inyo
 - Mono
- **New provider-specific C-SNP Plan** –
Wellcare Specialty Simple Focus (HMO C-SNP) (H0562-139) will be available for members with qualifying chronic conditions in:
 - San Francisco

County terminations

The following counties will no longer offer the Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) plan (H0562-133):

- Santa Clara
- Solano
- San Mateo

Plan terminations

The following MA plans will be fully discontinued:

- Wellcare Premium Ultra (HMO)
 - Plans: H0562-009 & H0562-039
 - Affecting members in these counties: Amador, Placer, Sacramento, San Francisco, Stanislaus, Yolo
- Wellcare Simply Ruby (HMO)
 - Plan: H0562-079
 - Affecting members in these counties: Fresno, Kern, Madera, Stanislaus, Tulare

Plan changes – provider impacts

- Members will receive **new ID cards**.
- Eligibility files will reflect new member assignments.
- Affected members will be disenrolled from the above plans effective **December 31, 2025**.
- Members were notified via mail in early October about their Medicare options.

C-SNP enrollment support

For new enrollees in the C-SNP plan:

- Providers must verify qualifying chronic conditions to complete enrollment.
- Members will designate which provider(s) can confirm their condition.
- The plan will contact the provider for a verbal or faxed attestation within **three business days**.

Operational updates for D-SNP members

VBID transition to SSBCI benefits

Starting in 2026, Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) benefits will transition to **Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI)**. Members will need to meet specific clinical criteria to qualify for the additional benefits.

Eligible members may receive:

- Food and produce
- Meals
- Pest control
- Non-medical transportation
- Indoor air quality services
- Home structural modifications
- General supports for living
- Safety devices and modifications
- Gas pay-at-pump
- Utility and rent/mortgage assistance

Qualification process:

- Automated via diagnosis codes on claims.
- New members may require provider-supported attestation.

Provider action items:

- Ensure accurate diagnosis coding on claims.
- Respond promptly to member letters requesting eligibility verification.

Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT)

NEMT will now be covered under the **Medi-Cal benefit**.

Provider responsibilities:

If a member requires enhanced transportation (e.g., wheelchair van, door-to-door, ambulance):

- 1 Complete a [Physician Certification Statement \(PCS\)](#) form when requested through a plan outreach.
- 2 Fax the form to **833-701-0051**.
- 3 The plan will process the form within **one business day** and notify the vendor.
- 4 Members can schedule rides by calling the transportation vendor or Member Services at the number on their medical ID card.

Annual benefit changes

Plan benefits change annually. Providers should:

- Review the **Annual Notice of Change** for each plan available on the [Plan Benefit Member Materials](#) website.
- Reference the **Member Handbook/Evidence of Coverage** for full benefit details.
- Validate coverage before services are rendered.

Resources for providers serving D-SNP members

Access the D-SNP provider resource page at https://bit.ly/DSNP_Resources for more information, including FAQs, trainings and more.

Coming soon! C-SNP provider resource page – a communication will be sent when it's available.

Need help? Contact us

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the Provider Services Center at:

- Individual and employer group: 800-929-9224
- Medicare supplemental: 800-641-7761
- Behavioral health providers: 844-966-0298

2026 Medicare plans and D-SNPs/C-SNPs by county

COUNTY	PRODUCTS
Amador	H0562-133-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Calaveras	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Fresno	H3561-007-Wellcare CalViva Health Dual Align (D-SNP)
Imperial	H0562-012-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-137- Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP)
Inyo	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Kern	H0562-092-Wellcare Specialty Simple (C-SNP) H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP)
Kings	H3561-007-Wellcare CalViva Health Dual Align (D-SNP)
Los Angeles	H0562-092-Wellcare Specialty Simple (C-SNP) H0562-125-Wellcare Simple Focus (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-136-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP) H5087-005-Wellcare Simple (HMO) H5087-032-Wellcare Giveback (HMO)
Madera	H3561-007-Wellcare CalViva Health Dual Align (D-SNP)
Mono	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Orange	H0562-092-Wellcare Specialty Simple (C-SNP) H0562-125-Wellcare Simple Focus (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-136-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP) H5087-005-Wellcare Simple (HMO) H5087-032-Wellcare Giveback (HMO)

Placer	H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP)
Riverside	H0562-092-Wellcare Specialty Simple (C-SNP) H0562-126-Wellcare Simple Focus (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-137- Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP) H5087-032-Wellcare Giveback (HMO)
Sacramento	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
San Bernardino	H0562-092-Wellcare Specialty Simple (C-SNP) H0562-126-Wellcare Simple Focus (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-137- Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP) H5087-032-Wellcare Giveback (HMO)
San Diego	H0562-012-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-092-Wellcare Specialty Simple (C-SNP) H0562-137- Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP)
San Francisco	H0562-097-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO) PSP ¹ H0562-138-Wellcare Specialty Simple Focus (C-SNP) PSP ¹ H3561-009-Wellcare Dual Liberty (D-SNP)
San Joaquin	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP) H5087-034-001-Wellcare Simple (HMO)
Stanislaus	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Tulare	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Tuolumne	H3561-008-Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (D-SNP)
Ventura	H5087-034-002-Wellcare Simple (HMO)
Yolo	H0562-133-Wellcare Low Premium (HMO)

¹ PSP= Provider Specific Plan