

# Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

[molinahealthcare.com/members/ca/en-us/health-care-professionals/home.aspx](https://molinahealthcare.com/members/ca/en-us/health-care-professionals/home.aspx)

September 25, 2024

- Imperial
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego

## Timely Access Standards

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers regarding Timely Access Standards applicable to Medi-Cal and Marketplace lines of business.

### What you need to know:

Providers are required to conform to the Access to Care appointment standards to ensure that healthcare services are provided in a timely manner. The primary care provider (PCP) or their designee must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to Members.

Members are instructed to call their PCP to schedule appointments for routine/non-urgent care, preventive care, and urgent/emergency care visits. The PCP is expected to ensure timely access to MHC members. If the need for specialty care arises, the PCP is responsible for coordinating all services that fall out of the scope of the PCP's practice.

### Access Standards

Access Standards have been developed to ensure that all health care services are provided in a timely manner; however, the waiting time for a particular appointment may be extended if the referring or treating licensed health care provider or the health care professional providing triage or screening services, acting within the scope of his or her practice and consistent with professionally recognized standards of practice, has determined and documented in the relevant patient medical record that a longer waiting time will not have a detrimental impact on the health of enrollee.

## Provider Action

Timely access standards are based on regulatory and accreditation standards. MHC monitors compliance with these standards and will implement corrective actions for access to healthcare services that do not meet the performance standards.

For more information, please refer to the **Access to Care** section under:

- MHC Medi-Cal Manual, Chapter 7: [molinahealthcare.com/-/media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/Providers/ca/Medicaid/2024-CA-MEDI-CAL-PROVIDER-MANUAL.pdf](https://molinahealthcare.com/-/media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/Providers/ca/Medicaid/2024-CA-MEDI-CAL-PROVIDER-MANUAL.pdf)
- MHC Marketplace Manual, Chapter 10: [molinamarketplace.com/marketplace/ca/en-us/Providers/~//media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/Providers/ca/Marketplace/2024%20CA%20Marketplace%20Provider%20Manual](https://molinamarketplace.com/marketplace/ca/en-us/Providers/~//media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/Providers/ca/Marketplace/2024%20CA%20Marketplace%20Provider%20Manual)

For additional information on appointment access standards, contact your local Molina Quality functional area at (888) 562-5442.



### **After Hours Care**

All providers must have backup (on-call) coverage after hours or during the provider's absence or unavailability. Molina requires providers to maintain a 24-hour telephone service, seven days a week. This access may be through an answering service or a recorded message after office hours. The service or recorded message should instruct Members with an Emergency to hang up and call 911 or go immediately to the nearest emergency room. Voicemail alone after hours is not acceptable.

### **Primary Care Office Hours**

Generally, office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the provider/practitioner has the flexibility to maintain his/her own reasonable and regular office hours. All primary care sites are required to post their regular office hours and be available to the members at least 20 hours a week at the site.

### **Urgent and Emergency Care at the PCP's Office**

The facility must have procedures in place to enable access to emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Confidential and Sensitive Medical Services**

Timely access is required by providers/practitioners for members seeking sensitive/confidential medical services for family planning and/or sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing/counseling, as well as confidential referrals for treatment of drug and/or alcohol abuse.

All providers who oversee the member's health care are responsible for providing the following appointments to Molina members in the timeframes noted:

<b>PCP Appointment Types</b>	<b>Standard</b>
Emergency Care	Immediately.
Urgent Care without prior authorization	Within ≤ 48 hours of the request. (Weekends and holidays included)
Urgent Care with prior authorization	Within ≤ 96 hours of the request.
PCP Routine or Non-Urgent Care Appointments	Within ≤ 10 business days of the request.
PCP Adult Preventive Care	Within ≤ 20 business days of the request.
Specialist Urgent Care without prior authorization	Within ≤ 48 hours of the request.
Specialist Urgent Care with prior authorization	Within ≤ 96 hours of the request. (Weekends and holidays included)
Specialist Routine or Non-Urgent Care	Within ≤ 15 business days of the request.
Routine or Non-Urgent Care Appointment for Ancillary Services	Within ≤ 15 working days of the request.
Children's Preventive Periodic Health Assessments (Well-Child Preventive Care) Appointments	Within ≤ 7 working days of the request.
After Hours Care	24 hours/day; 7 day/week availability
Initial Health Assessment (IHA) for a New Member (under 18 months of age)	Within 120 days of the enrollment or within periodicity timelines established by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for ages 2 and younger, whichever is less.

If you are not contracted with Molina and wish to opt out of the MHC Provider Bulletin, email [mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com). Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.

Initial Health Assessment (IHA) for a New Member (over 18 months of age through 20 years of age)	Within 120 days of the enrollment. The IHA must follow the most recent AAP periodicity schedule appropriate for the child's age, and the scheduled assessments and services must include all content required by the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program for the lower age nearest to the current age of the child.
Initial Health Assessment (IHA) for a New Member (age 21 years and older)	Within 120 days of the enrollment.
Maternity Care Appointments for First Prenatal Care	Within ≤ 2 weeks of the request.
Office Telephone Answer Time (during office hours)	Within ≤ 30 seconds of call.

<b>PCP Appointment Types</b>	<b>Standard</b>
Office Response Time for Returning Member Calls (during office hours)	Within same working day of call.
Office Wait Time to be Seen by Physician (for a scheduled appointment)	Should not exceed 30 minutes from the appointment time.
After-Hour Instruction for Life-Threatening Emergency (when office is closed)	Life-threatening emergency instruction should state: "If this is a life-threatening emergency, hang up and dial 911."
Physician Response Time to After-Hour Phone Message, Calls and/or Pages	Within 30 minutes of call, message, and/or page. A clear instruction on how to contact the physician or the designee (on-call physician) must be provided for members.

<b>After-hour Availability</b>	<b>After-hour Access Standards</b>
Appropriate after-hour emergency instruction.	If this is a life-threatening emergency, please hang up and dial 911.
Timely physician response to after-hour phone calls/pages.	Within ≤ 30 minutes.

<b>Ancillary Access Type</b>	<b>Ancillary Access Standards</b>
Non-urgent appointment for ancillary services.	Within ≤ 15 business days.

<b>Behavioral Health Appointment Types</b>	<b>Standard</b>
Urgent Care with a Behavioral Health Provider without prior authorization	Within ≤ 48 hours of the request.
Urgent Care requiring prior authorization with a Behavioral Health Provider	Within ≤ 96 hours of the request. (Weekends and holidays included)
Routine or Non-Urgent Care Appointments with a Behavioral Health Provider	Within ≤ 10 business days of request.
Behavioral Health Non-life-threatening emergency	Within ≤ 6 hours of the request.

If you are not contracted with Molina and wish to opt out of the MHC Provider Bulletin, email [mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com). Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.

BH – Routine Follow-up with Prescribers (i.e., Psychiatrist)	Within ≤ 30 business days from the initial appointment for a specific condition
BH – Routine Follow-up with Non-Prescribers	Within ≤ 10 business days from the initial appointment with non-prescribers (i.e., non-physician mental health care or substance use disorder provider) for a specific condition
Non-urgent care Follow-Up appointment with non-physician mental health care Non-Physician Mental Health Provider	Within ≤ 10 business days of request.
Routine or Non-Urgent Care Appointment with a Non-Physician Mental Health Provider or substance use disorder providers	Within ≤ 10 business days of request.

### **Provider Types**

Specialties included for Specialty (dermatology, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, pulmonology, & urology).

<b>Primary Care Providers</b>	Primary Care Physicians and Non-Physician Medical Practitioners providing primary care
<b>Specialists Physicians</b>	Cardiovascular Disease, Endocrinology, and Gastroenterology
<b>Psychiatrists</b>	N/A
<b>Non-Physician Mental Health Care Providers (NPMH)</b>	Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC), Psychologist (PhD-Level), Marriage and Family Therapist/Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and Master of Social Work/Licensed Clinical Social Worker
<b>Ancillary Services Providers</b>	Ancillary Service Providers: Facilities or entities providing mammogram or physical therapy appointments

If you are unable to obtain a timely referral to an appropriate provider, please contact the DMHC Provider Complaint line toll-free at (877) 525-1295 or through their website:

[dmhc.ca.gov/fileacomplaint/providercomplaintagainstaplan/submitaprovidercomplaint.aspx](http://dmhc.ca.gov/fileacomplaint/providercomplaintagainstaplan/submitaprovidercomplaint.aspx)

If you are not contracted with Molina and wish to opt out of the MHC Provider Bulletin, email [mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com). Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.

## What if you need assistance?

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

Service County Area	Provider Relations Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
Los Angeles County	Clemente Arias	562-517-1014	<a href="mailto:Clemente.Arias@molinahealthcare.com">Clemente.Arias@molinahealthcare.com</a>
	Christian Diaz	562-549-3550	<a href="mailto:Christian.Diaz@molinahealthcare.com">Christian.Diaz@molinahealthcare.com</a>
	Daniel Amirian	562-549-4809	<a href="mailto:Daniel.Amirian@molinahealthcare.com">Daniel.Amirian@molinahealthcare.com</a>
	Anita White	562-980-3947	<a href="mailto:Princess.White@molinahealthcare.com">Princess.White@molinahealthcare.com</a>
Los Angeles / Orange County	Maria Guimoye	562-549-4390	<a href="mailto:Maria.Guimoye@molinahealthcare.com">Maria.Guimoye@molinahealthcare.com</a>
Sacramento County	Johonna Eshalomi	279-895-9354	<a href="mailto:Johonna.Eshalomi@molinahealthcare.com">Johonna.Eshalomi@molinahealthcare.com</a>
	Marina Higby	916-561-8550	<a href="mailto:Marina.Higby@molinahealthcare.com">Marina.Higby@molinahealthcare.com</a>
San Bernardino County	Luana McIver	909-501-3314	<a href="mailto:Luana.Mciver@molinahealthcare.com">Luana.Mciver@molinahealthcare.com</a>
San Bernardino / Riverside County	Vanessa Lomeli	909-577-4355	<a href="mailto:Vanessa.Lomeli2@molinahealthcare.com">Vanessa.Lomeli2@molinahealthcare.com</a>
Riverside County	Patricia Melendez	562-549-3957	<a href="mailto:Patricia.Melendez@molinahealthcare.com">Patricia.Melendez@molinahealthcare.com</a>
San Diego / Imperial County	Salvador Perez	562-549-3825	<a href="mailto:Salvador.Perez@molinahealthcare.com">Salvador.Perez@molinahealthcare.com</a>
	Dolores Ramos	562-549-4900	<a href="mailto:Dolores.Ramos@molinahealthcare.com">Dolores.Ramos@molinahealthcare.com</a>
	Lincoln Watkins	858-300-7722	<a href="mailto:Lincoln.Watkins@molinahealthcare.com">Lincoln.Watkins@molinahealthcare.com</a>

California Facilities (Hospitals, SNFs, CBAS, ICF/DD & ASC Providers)	Facility Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
Imperial, San Diego & Sacramento	Teresa Suarez	562-549-3782	<a href="mailto:Teresa.Suarez2@molinahealthcare.com">Teresa.Suarez2@molinahealthcare.com</a>
Los Angeles & Orange	Laura Gonzalez	562-549-4887	<a href="mailto:Laura.Gonzalez3@molinahealthcare.com">Laura.Gonzalez3@molinahealthcare.com</a>
Riverside & San Bernardino	Mimi Howard	562-549-3532	<a href="mailto:Smimi.Howard@molinahealthcare.com">Smimi.Howard@molinahealthcare.com</a>

If you are not contracted with Molina and wish to opt out of the MHC Provider Bulletin, email [mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com). Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.