

TALKING TREND

Impacts of Inflation and the Unemployment Rate on Health Coverage

According to the California Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO), a modest increase in the unemployment rate is predicted through calendar year 2023. They also project that inflation will be above the historical average in 2023 (although not as high as in 2022).

Higher Unemployment Could Reduce Enrollment in Employer-Sponsored Health Coverage. The most common form of health coverage in California is employer-sponsored health coverage. As a result, some Californians who currently have employer-sponsored coverage could lose their current health coverage due to job losses. Individuals and families who lose employer-sponsored coverage may be eligible for other sources of coverage such as Medi-Cal, plans purchased through Covered California, or by enrolling in employer-sponsored coverage through a new job or another household member’s employer-sponsored coverage.

Medi-Cal Enrollment Generally Increases With Unemployment Rate. Historically, when the unemployment rate increases, more Californians become eligible for Medi-Cal. As such, higher unemployment rates in 2023 would result in more people qualifying for Medi-Cal than if the unemployment rate was lower. However, it is anticipated that overall enrollment in Medi-Cal will still decline over the course of calendar year 2023 due to the resumption of eligibility redeterminations.

Inflation Impacts on Employer-Sponsored Health Coverage. Insurance companies could raise premiums to cover increased costs due to inflation. However, because premiums generally have been set for 2023 already, the potential impacts of inflation on employer-sponsored health insurance likely will not occur until 2024. Depending on how employers change benefits, impacted individuals potentially could shift to subsidized coverage through Covered California.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Prescription Drug Reporting (RxDC Report)



The No Surprises Act (NSA), enacted as part of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#), includes transparency provisions requiring to both grandfathered and non-grandfathered group health plans, and health insurance issuers in the individual and group markets, to submit information on prescription drugs and health care spending to the Departments of Labor Health and Human Services and the Department of Treasury and the Office of Personnel Management (The Departments).

This prescription drug data submission is called the RxDC report and is collected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The RxDC report is due annually, beginning December 27, 2022 (for reference years 2020 and 2021), and then by June 1 of each subsequent year.

What Health Net Is Doing

- Health Net successfully filed the 2020 and 2021 RxDC reports before December 27, 2022.
- The second RxDC report is due by June 1, 2023 and will cover data for 2022.
- Health Net does not need any data from our employer groups to submit the reporting to CMS.
- We are not communicating out anything to our members/providers/brokers regarding RxDC reporting since it is not required. This is a Health Plan obligation to CMS.
- CMS is making the Rx Reporting public at www.cms.gov/ccio/programs-and-initiatives/other-insurance-protections/prescription-drug-data-collection or from the websites of the Department of Labor or the Department of the Treasury.

HEALTH NET NEWS

Contract With Riverside Medical Clinic Renewed

Great news! Health Net of California, Inc. (Health Net) has reached an agreement with Riverside Medical Clinic (PPG # 2946) to continue to be contracted with Health Net for all products that participate with Riverside Medical Clinic. Health Net has reached a two-year agreement with Riverside Medical Clinic through April 2025.

Our contract includes all currently contracted Riverside Medical Clinic providers including:

- Hospitals
- Physicians
- Ancillary Providers

“Good News” letters informing members enrolled with Riverside Medical Clinic began last month advising that their PCP will continue to be available through Riverside Medical Clinic.

We continue to work to ensure access to quality and affordable health coverage for the communities we serve..

We're here for you!
 For questions, contact
 Broker Services at
brokers@healthnet.com
 or reach out to your
 Account Executive

WELLNESS

April Wellness Webinar – Work-Life Balance



Finding the balance between work and life often feels elusive. In fact, “balance” might be the wrong term altogether. Instead, our lives are like a river, ebbing and flowing through the many stages of our life. Our priorities change throughout this journey we call life. Sometimes more time is spent at work and other times our home life needs more focus. In the webinar, we’ll:

- Explore the term work-life balance.
- Discuss work-life integration strategies that help us “balance” those things we must do and those we want to do.
- Identify how our values, priorities, time management skills, boundaries, delegation, communication, self-care, and mindfulness are important tools that help us find our “flow” – true engagement in both our professional and personal lives.

April Webinar: Work-Life Balance
Date: April 19, 2023
Time: 12:00-12:45 p.m. PST
Register [HERE](#)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Health Net Helps Bring No-Cost Mental Telehealth Services to L.A. Schoolchildren

Partnership with Hazel Health and others will provide services to more than one million students

Health Net has partnered with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), L.A. Care Health Plan and the L.A. County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to bring no-cost mental telehealth services to Los Angeles school children in grades K-12. The service will be offered through the school-based telehealth company Hazel Health.

Health Net and L.A. Care Health Plan will allocate up to \$24 million over two years to cover the cost of the program that allows Hazel Health to provide mental health support for more than 1.3 million L.A. County students.

The partnership comes at a critical time as research shows 1 in 14 California children has an emotional disturbance that limits their functioning in family, school or community activities¹.

President and CEO of Health Net, Brian Ternan praised the partnership by adding, "Helping more children is why we partner with agencies like the Los Angeles County Office of Education and local school districts...These efforts to bring mental health support to youth builds on our previous work with Hazel Health to increase their presence throughout California. This partnership is another large step in the journey to advancing health equity for the state's most vulnerable residents."

¹ Source: [2022 California Health Care Almanac](#)

JUST FOR FUN



Spring Has Sprung!

After a long, cold, rainy winter, it’s time to go outside and celebrate spring! Here are a few examples of activities to enjoy with the whole family.

1. Go fly a kite—literally! On the beach, in a field; kites are inexpensive and easy to assemble or even more fun, make your own. Don’t forget the tail.
2. Go for a hike and enjoy all the wildflowers in bloom. They don’t last long.
3. Do some gardening. Give the kids a little plot of their own and they’ll get excited about watching their own plants grow.
4. Blow some bubbles. Go buy some bubbles at your favorite dollar store or make your own at home. You don’t even have to leave your yard.
5. Make a bird feeder or just hang one where the whole family can watch as the returning birds and hatchlings come to visit.
6. Bring out the bikes. Warmer, sunny weather and longer days make bike riding together a joy.
7. Baseball season is here! Besides rooting for your favorite team together, go outside and play catch, set up a tetherball pole, coach a little league team.
8. Visit the Poppy Reserve or just go looking for them. California poppies grow wild everywhere. See if you can spot them in your area or take a day trip to the poppy reserve. It is a breathtaking sight.
9. Visit a petting zoo. Newborn animal babies are adorable, and now is the time to go see them.
10. Just turn off the phones and go outside. Enjoy all the natural beauty, variety and gorgeous climate our wonderful state has to offer.