

Retirement of the *Individual Health Education Behavior Assessment/ Staying Healthy Assessment*

Effective January 1, 2023, as part of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative and pursuant to state law, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is implementing the Population Health Management (PHM) program as outlined in *All Plan Letter (APL) 22-024*, which supersedes *APLs 17-012* and *17-013*. This communication is regarding key changes to several federal and NCQA required initial screening processes to reduce the burden to members, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders. Further communication regarding other PHM program requirements and guidelines will be forthcoming.

Effective January 1, 2023, the *Individual Health Education Behavior Assessment (IHEBA)/Staying Healthy Assessment (SHA)* is no longer a required element during well child and adult visits.

IHEBA/SHA:

- The *SHA*, an age-specific questionnaire developed to enable primary care providers to assess a member's acute, chronic, and preventive health needs, is no longer a required component of the *Initial Health Assessment (IHA)*. The associated *APLs, 13-017 and 13-001*, retire on December 31, 2022.
- References to the *IHEBA/SHA* in any other *APLs* pertaining to site reviews, tobacco prevention and cessation, and alcohol misuse will be removed by December 31, 2022. This does not change any other requirements contained within those *APLs*.
- Elimination of the *IHEBA/SHA* does not change the requirement to include a history of the member's physical and behavioral health, an identification of risks, an assessment of need for preventive screens or services and health education, and the diagnosis and plan for treatment of any diseases as part of the *IHA*. Providers may continue to use the *IHEBA/SHA* as their preferred tool to identify behaviors that place members at risk.
- For children and youth (for example, individuals under age 21), Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) screenings will continue to be covered in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)/Bright Futures periodicity schedule, as referenced in *APL 19-010*.
- Network providers will be held accountable for providing all preventive screenings for adults and children as recommended by the United States Preventive Services Taskforce (USPSTF) but will no longer require all these elements to be completed during the initial appointment, so long as members receive all required screenings in a timely manner consistent with USPSTF guidelines.

IHA:

- Beginning January 1, 2023, the *Initial Health Assessment* will be known as the *Initial Health Appointment (IHA)*. Further communication and guidance on modifications to *IHA* requirements will be forthcoming.

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