



One simple plan for your health

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Alameda Alliance for Health Adds Dental and Vision Coverage to its Alliance CompleteCare Medicare Advantage Plan

In Light of Medi-Cal Budget Cuts, the Alliance Responds to Needs of Alameda County's Adults

Alameda, Calif., Oct. 21, 2009 – With the state's recent Medi-Cal cuts to dental and vision coverage, Alameda Alliance for Health (the Alliance) announced it has added both dental and vision coverage to its Alliance CompleteCare health plan, which serves seniors and persons with disabilities who are dually eligible for both Medi-Cal and Medicare. The new benefits are effective January 1, 2010, and Alliance CompleteCare accepts enrollments year-round.

As of July 1, 2009, the state of California has reduced Medi-Cal optional services for some beneficiaries in light of state budgetary constraints. The state will no longer pay for dental and vision benefits for adults over 21 years of age or those who do not meet certain requirements. The high demand for these benefits among residents of Alameda County is the reason the Alliance enhanced its benefits package for Alliance CompleteCare members to include dental care and eyewear.

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The Alliance has signed a new contract with LIBERTY Dental Plan to provide dental coverage for its Alliance CompleteCare members. LIBERTY is a dental benefits management company specializing in commercial and government sponsored programs. It provides services to managed care organizations, state governments, unions, direct employers and municipalities.

“Our partnership with Alliance CompleteCare is a great honor and opportunity for us to do what we do best – deliver outstanding, cost-effective dental benefits,” Amir Neshat, D.D.S., the President and CEO of LIBERTY Dental Plan stated. “I am excited to work alongside the Alliance to bring the people of Alameda County quality dental health services, and feel confident that we will give the highest care to every new member.”

“We want to give our Alliance CompleteCare members a health plan that will meet their needs as much as possible,” said Ingrid Lamirault, CEO for the Alliance. “With the new benefits in the Alliance CompleteCare plan, we are providing one of the few options available to low-income adults in the county to get comprehensive dental coverage, and vision coverage.” According to Lamirault, studies show that people who have better dental health have fewer strokes and healthier hearts. In addition, better vision helps prevent falls, a major reason for hip fractures and hospitalizations. “We believe this is a sound investment in the health of our Alliance CompleteCare membership.”

Alliance CompleteCare is a Medicare Advantage Special Needs health plan for people who live in Alameda County and who qualify for both Medicare and Medi-Cal. Alliance CompleteCare combines Medicare, Medi-Cal and Part D drug coverage into one simple plan.

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Members will receive full dental coverage that includes routine care and cleanings; x-rays and fillings; fluoride treatments; crowns, bridges and dentures, and more.

Vision coverage includes eye exams for Alliance Medi-Cal members and \$100 every two years for glasses and contacts. In addition to these benefits, Alliance CompleteCare members have \$0 co-pays on generic prescriptions, access to 90-day supply for prescriptions and mail order service, transportation (up to 24 one-way trips for medical appointments), and a personal Care Advisor to assist members with coordinating their care. Members also receive free interpreter services for medical appointments.

Enrollment for Alliance CompleteCare is open year round and eligible individuals have access to Alliance sales representatives to assist with the enrollment form, answer any questions or for an in-home appointment. Sales representatives speak Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Spanish. Additional information on Alliance CompleteCare benefits can be found at www.alliancecompletecare.org or by calling 1-877-585-7526.

About Alameda Alliance for Health

Established in 1996, Alameda Alliance for Health is a local, not-for-profit, state-licensed health plan committed to making high quality health care services accessible and affordable to lower income residents in Alameda County. The Alliance is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of its members. More than 100,000 people have chosen the Alliance as their health care plan through health coverage programs that include Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Alliance Group Care and Alliance CompleteCare. More information on the Alliance can be found at www.alamedaalliance.org and www.alliancecompletecare.org.

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