

Family PACT: An Overview

Background:

The California State legislature, in the budget for Fiscal Year 1996–1997, included an important initiative to reduce unintended pregnancies and to promote optimal reproductive health by minimizing barriers that many low-income women and men face in obtaining family planning services. As a result of this initiative, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) developed the Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (PACT) Program, a publicly funded, family planning clinical services program designed to narrow the gap between insured and uninsured women and men in California.

Overview:

The Family PACT Program is administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), [Office of Family Planning](#) (OFP). OFP is responsible for program policy, program monitoring, quality improvement, and program evaluation.

Family PACT is designed primarily to assist individuals with a medical necessity for family planning services. The overall goal of the Family PACT Program is to ensure that low-income women and men have access to health information, counseling, and family planning services to reduce the likelihood of unintended pregnancy and to maintain optimal reproductive health.

The intent of the program is to provide eligible California women and men access to comprehensive family planning services in order to:

- Establish the timing, number and spacing of their children
- Maintain optimal reproductive health

DHCS is committed to ensuring that all eligible clients and their families enroll in health insurance plans as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Many clients served by the Family PACT Program are eligible for health insurance coverage through Medi-Cal program expansion or subsidized health insurance through Covered California (www.coveredca.com). Clients who are not eligible for these programs and who remain in the Family PACT Program should be routinely referred to community health centers to receive primary services beyond the scope of the Family PACT Program.

Access to Family Planning Services:

Given the health, social and economic consequences of unintended pregnancies, there is a compelling need access to family planning services. Under the Family PACT Program, all California residents with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines with no other source of family planning health care coverage have access to comprehensive family planning services during childbearing years.

Expanding access to comprehensive family planning services is achieved by increasing the number of providers who render Family PACT services. Under Family PACT, Medi-Cal enrolled providers in good standing, who elect to provide the scope of program services consistent with the Family PACT Standards, may apply for enrollment. For more information on Family PACT provider enrollment, please visit [Family PACT: Provider Enrollment webpage](#).

Client Eligibility:**To be eligible for Family PACT, an individual must:**

- be a resident of California.
- earn a total taxable family income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.
- have no other source of health care coverage for family planning services, or meet the criteria specified for eligibility with Other Health Coverage (OHC).
- have a medical necessity for family planning services.

Comprehensive Family Planning Services:

Family PACT offers clinical and preventive services such as office visits, procedures, drugs, and contraceptive supplies.

- *Family planning services:* all FDA approved contraceptive methods, fertility awareness, female and male sterilization and specified reproductive health screening tests.
- *Family planning-related services:* diagnosis and treatment of specified sexually transmitted infections (STIs), urinary tract infections (UTIs), and screening for cervical cancer and treatment of pre-invasive cervical lesions for women when the care is provided coincident to a visit for the management of a family planning method.
- *Managing complications* of contraceptive methods and complications arising from treatment of covered family planning-related services.

Education and Counseling:

Client-centered health education and counseling is considered integral to Family PACT and is incorporated throughout the family planning visit. The provision of reproductive health education and counseling is required for all Family PACT clients, including the following:

- A practice setting that is appropriate for discussion of sensitive topics

- Ongoing individualized client assessment and focused communication
- Topics and behaviors that promote personal choice, risk reduction and optimal reproductive health practices

Program Standards:

The Family PACT Program adheres to seven core standards, including informed consent, confidentiality, cultural and linguistic competency, access to care, availability of covered services, clinical and preventive services, and education and counseling services to ensure high quality of care.

Toll-Free Telephone Number for Referrals and Pre-Recorded Information:

The OFP maintains a statewide toll-free information and referral service. With this system, individuals seeking family planning services may call the toll-free telephone number (1-800-942-1054) to locate Family PACT providers within their area. The toll-free line also offers pre-recorded messages regarding the family planning services and family planning-related services available through Family PACT.

Internet Provider Search:

Clients and providers may use the internet to locate Family PACT providers by using the provider search function on the program's web site at www.familypact.org. When entering a ZIP code, a listing of providers in the vicinity is displayed, including addresses and telephone numbers.

Provider Trainings:

Family PACT offers regularly scheduled [clinical webinars](#) and training is available for Family PACT providers through the [Online Training Center](#).