

SECTION 2

KAISER PERMANENTE MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM

2 HISTORY

Kaiser Permanente was founded in the late 1930's by an innovative physician, Sidney R. Garfield, MD, and an industrialist, Henry J. Kaiser, as a comprehensive affordable alternative to "fee-for-service" medical care. Initially, the health care program was only available to construction, shipyard, and steel mill workers employed by the Kaiser industrial companies during the late 1930's and 1940's. The program was opened for enrollment to the general public in 1945.

Today, Kaiser Permanente is America's leading integrated health plan and is a not-for-profit group practice program headquartered in Oakland, California. Kaiser Permanente serves members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Today it encompasses the not-for-profit Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and their subsidiaries, and the for-profit Permanente Medical Groups. Nationwide, Kaiser Permanente includes approximately 156,000 technical, administrative, and clerical employees and caregivers, and more than 13,000 physicians representing all specialties.

2.1 INTEGRATION

Kaiser Permanente is unique. We integrate the elements of health care, providers, hospitals, home health, support functions and healthcare coverage into a cohesive healthcare delivery system. Our integrated structure enables us to coordinate care to our members across the continuum of care settings.

2.2 PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

Kaiser Permanente continues to influence the practice of medicine by focusing on keeping the member healthy and on treating illness and injuries. We encourage members to seek care on a regular and preventive basis.