

October 2024

**Re: Clinical Practice Guidelines**

Kaiser Permanente's Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) are clinical references used to educate and support clinical decisions by practitioners at the point of care in the provision of acute, chronic and behavioral health services. The use of CPGs by practitioners is discretionary. However, CPGs can assist providers in providing patients with evidence-based care that is consistent with professionally recognized standards of care.

The development of Kaiser Permanente's CPGs is determined and prioritized according to established criteria, which include number of patients affected by a particular condition/need, quality of care concerns and excessive clinical practice variation, regulatory issues, payor interests, cost, operational needs, leadership mandates and prerogatives.

Physicians and other practitioners are involved in the identification of Kaiser Permanente's CPG topics, as well as the development, review, and endorsement of all CPGs. The CPG team includes a core, multi-disciplinary group of physicians representing the medical specialties most affected by the CPG topic, as well as health educators, pharmacists, or other medical professionals.

The Kaiser Permanente CPGs are sponsored and approved by one or more Clinical Chiefs groups, as well as by the Kaiser Permanente Guidelines Medical Director. Established guidelines are routinely reviewed and updated at least every two years or earlier when new evidence emerges. CPGs are available by contacting the Kaiser Permanente Member Services Call Center (MSCC) at **(888) 576-6789** or contacting the Kaiser Permanente referring physician.

Additionally, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires managed care plans, including Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, to inform contracted providers of additional guidelines published by the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The current list of USPSTF's preventive services "A" and "B" recommendations are available online at:

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/uspstf-a-and-b-recommendations/>

For more information about the US Preventive Services Task Force, please visit:

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/home>

Sincerely,

Kaiser Permanente