



# Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) Primary Care and Specialty Providers  
(Oncology, Pulmonology, Cardiology, GI/Hepatology)

From: Nancy R. Wharfield, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

Re: **MyGoldCare – Palliative Care Program**

Date: December 27, 2017

The state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) to implement a new palliative care (PC) benefit on January 1 in accordance to Senate Bill 1004 and APL 17-015.

GCHP strives to build a strong provider network of qualified, multidisciplinary teams dedicated to providing patient- and family-centered care that addresses the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the Plan's population in the most compassionate way possible.

The Plan's new PC benefit, named MyGoldCare, will be available for any member who qualifies. Using the PC benefit does not result in a reduction in other benefits for members. To help you provide seamless palliative care to GCHP's members, here is some information regarding the new MyGoldCare benefit:

## **New PC Prior Authorization Required:**

As of January 1, a MyGoldCare Preauthorization Palliative Care Request Form will be required to access services:

[Click here](#) to access the form.

## **Eligibility Criteria:**

As of January 1, GCHP beneficiaries qualify for PC if they meet **all** the general criteria and at least **one of the four** disease-specific eligibility criteria:

- General Eligibility Criteria

The following apply to members eligible to receive PC:

1. Likely to or have started to use the hospital or emergency department as a means to manage late stage disease;
  2. In a late stage of illness, as defined below, and not eligible for or has declined hospice enrollment;
  3. Death within a year would not be unexpected based on clinical status;
  4. Have either received appropriate patient-desired medical therapy, or for whom patient-desired medical therapy is no longer effective. Patient is not in reversible acute decompensation; and,
  5. The member and, if applicable, the family/patient-designated support person, agrees to:
    1. Attempt in-home, residential-based or outpatient disease management instead of first going to the emergency department; and
    2. Participate in advance care planning discussions.
- **Disease-Specific Eligibility Criteria**
    1. **Congestive Heart Failure (CHF):** Must meet (a) and (b)
      - a. The member is hospitalized due to CHF as the primary diagnosis with no further invasive interventions planned or meets criteria for New York Heart Association (NYHA) heart failure classification III or higher, and
      - b. The member has an Ejection Fraction <30% for systolic failure or significant co-morbidities.
    2. **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD):** Must meet (a) or (b)
      - a. The member has a Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV)<sub>1</sub> <35% predicted and 24-hour oxygen requirement of <3 liters per minute, or
      - b. The member has a 24-hour oxygen requirement of greater than or equal to 3 liters per minute.
    3. **Advanced Cancer:** Must meet (a) and (b)
      - a. The beneficiary has a stage III or IV solid organ cancer, lymphoma, or leukemia, and
      - b. The beneficiary has a Karnofsky Performance Scale (KPS) score less than or equal to 70 or has failure of two lines of standard chemotherapy.
    4. **Liver Disease:** Must meet (a) and (b) combined or (c) alone

- a. The beneficiary has evidence of irreversible liver damage, serum albumin <3.0, and International Normalized Ratio (INR) >1.3, and
- b. The beneficiary has ascites, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, hepatic encephalopathy, hepatorenal syndrome, or recurrent esophageal varices, or
- c. The beneficiary has evidence of irreversible liver damage and has a Model for End Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score of >19.

### **Credentialing Requirement for all PC Network Providers**

GCHP is required to maintain a network of qualified PC providers who will offer care in the appropriate setting based on member needs. Therefore, as of February 1, physician leaders of PC teams will be required to have a certification by the Board of Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine.

If you have questions regarding MyGoldCare, email GCHP's Provider Relations Department at [providerrelations@goldchp.org](mailto:providerrelations@goldchp.org) or call 1-888-301-1228.

**[Click here](#) for a list of provider FAQs regarding MyGoldCare.**