

## HEALTH CARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM

### Selecting a Primary Care Physician

Selecting a primary care physician best suited for you and your family is the foundation for good health care. Prepaid Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) are the first point of contact for HMO members needing care. PPO members are not required to designate PCPs, and will be assigned a doctor if not proactively chosen. As specialists cost more, members should consider seeking care from a primary care doctor before seeking specialty attention.

To find out what PCPs are available to you through your medical plan, you can search for doctors using [your plan's website](#) or by [calling your plan](#).

#### What to consider

- **Availability:** Inquire if the doctor accepts new patients through your medical plan.
- **Education/Training:** Where/when did the doctor graduate from medical school? At what institution(s) did the doctor receive training?
- **License:** Find out the status of California physician licenses using the [Medical Board of California website](#). This site will also report any disciplinary action taken by the Board against a physician.
- **Board Certification:** Some doctors are board certified, meaning they completed several years of training in a specialty and passed an exam. For more information, visit the [American Board of Medical Specialties website](#) or call (866) 275-2267.
- **Office Location:** Is the doctor's office conveniently located? Is public transportation available?
- **Medical Group Affiliation:** If you belong to an HMO, your Primary Care Physician will usually refer you to physicians in the same group. With which medical group(s) is the doctor affiliated? Does that group offer access to a wide variety of specialists? Medical group ratings can be found at [California's Quality of Care Report Card](#) and [CalQuality.org](#).
- **Hospital Affiliation:** With which hospital is the doctor affiliated with? Is that hospital conveniently located? Hospital quality ratings can be found on [CalQuality.org](#) and [Medicare.gov](#).
- **Urgent Care:** Is there an urgent care facility available or are you required to use the Emergency Room at the hospital? What are the hours of operation?
- **Foreign Languages:** Would you or one of your family members benefit from a PCP that speaks another language?
- **What type of doctor best suits your needs?**

## HEALTH CARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM

### Local Health Facilities

Many answers to these questions can be found on your medical plan's website, or on the website of the medical group (or groups) to which your doctor belongs. Some of the medical groups near UC Irvine include:

- [Optum Care Medical Group](#)
- [Prospect Medical Group](#)
- [MemorialCare Medical Group](#)
- [Regal Medical Group](#)
- [UCI University Physicians and Surgeons](#)

This information is only a general guide. There may be more pertinent information you should consider prior to choosing your PCP. For more information on this topic, see the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality guide](#) for choosing a doctor.