

# AB-1943

## Medi-Cal: Telehealth



Prepared by the  
ELDERLY CARE  
EVERYWHERE POLICY  
TEAM



## ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

### Executive Summary

AB-1943, introduced by Assembly Member Weber during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, is an Assembly Bill specifically designed to bolster the integration of telehealth within the Medi-Cal program. This legislative effort mandates the State Department of Health Care Services to meticulously generate a comprehensive public report by October 1, 2025. This report aims to thoroughly examine the utilization of telehealth services among Medi-Cal enrollees, focusing on critical areas such as access and overall usage rates, impacts on the timeliness and quality of healthcare delivery, and the specific effects on clinical outcomes and preventive care measures.

The bill emphasizes a detailed analysis of these facets, including a look at how telehealth affects specialty care. It also requires evaluating how telehealth impacts Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) quality measures that are reported by Medi-Cal managed care plans. To ensure a thorough understanding of telehealth's impact across various demographics, AB-1943 directs that analyses be stratified by geographic, demographic, and social determinants of health. This stratification aims to identify disparities and ensure that telehealth benefits are equitably distributed among all Medi-Cal enrollees, using existing data approximations such as the Healthy Places Index.

Moreover, the bill grants authority to the Department of Health Care Services, in collaboration with the California Health and Human Services Agency, to formulate and issue policy recommendations based on the insights gleaned from the report. The overarching goal of AB-1943 is to advance state policies that maximize the benefits of telehealth technologies to improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare for all Californians, particularly emphasizing support for the medically underserved communities.

This initiative underscores a significant commitment by the state to not only enhance healthcare delivery through innovative telehealth solutions but also to ensure that these advancements contribute positively to individual patient outcomes and the broader population health. By fostering a more inclusive and efficient healthcare system, AB-1943 aims to set a benchmark in healthcare accessibility and quality, ensuring that all Californians, irrespective of their geographical or socio-economic status, can benefit from the advancements in telehealth technologies.

In summary, AB-1943 is a pivotal legislative measure that seeks to enhance the Medi-Cal program's efficiency and effectiveness through strategic telehealth use. It addresses current needs and sets the stage for future healthcare delivery and policy improvements, ensuring telehealth benefits are realized across California's population. This bill is key in paving the way for a healthier, more accessible, and equitable healthcare system in California.



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# Our Position

Assembly Bill No. 1943 (AB-1943) aims to significantly enhance the use of telehealth in California's Medi-Cal program, a move designed to improve access, timeliness, and quality of care for underserved populations. This bill mandates the production of a detailed report by October 1, 2025, by the State Department of Health Care Services, evaluating the impact of telehealth services on Medi-Cal enrollees, including analyses on clinical outcomes and healthcare access across diverse demographic groups. Elderly Care Everywhere strongly supports AB-1943 as it aligns with our mission to advocate for the health, welfare, and happiness of seniors and underserved communities. By optimizing the use of telehealth, AB-1943 is poised to revolutionize healthcare delivery, ensuring vulnerable groups receive timely and effective care.

This bill also emphasizes the need to stratify data analysis by geographic, demographic, and social determinants of health to identify and address disparities, a stance that mirrors our commitment to equitable healthcare. We believe that enhancing telehealth services is critical for modernizing healthcare delivery and improving access and equality across all populations. AB-1943 supports our goals of ensuring that all Californians, especially those facing economic and geographical barriers, have access to high-quality healthcare services. The bill further allows the Department of Health Care Services, in collaboration with the California Health and Human Services Agency, to issue policy recommendations based on the report's findings, an initiative that could lead to substantive policy changes benefiting all Californians.

By mandating a comprehensive evaluation of telehealth's impact and potential policy enhancements, AB-1943 not only addresses immediate healthcare needs but also sets the stage for future improvements in healthcare policy and delivery. It acknowledges the crucial role of telehealth in improving healthcare outcomes, particularly for populations with limited access to traditional healthcare settings. This acknowledgment is significant as it underscores the necessity for innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges faced by California's diverse populations.

Elderly Care Everywhere supports AB-1943 as it embodies our commitment to promoting efficient and inclusive health services. We believe that bolstering telehealth capabilities will lead to more effective and inclusive healthcare policies that ensure all residents, regardless of their background or location, receive the healthcare they deserve. By backing AB-1943, we are advocating for a future where all Californians are supported by a healthcare system that leverages technology to enhance access and outcomes, fostering a community where everyone can achieve optimal health. This support is pivotal as it aligns with our ongoing advocacy for a society that respects and supports its members equitably, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live healthy and fulfilling lives.



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# Letter of Support for AB-1943

The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4034  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 1943 – Medi-Cal: Telehealth**

Dear Senator Roth and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I write in strong support of AB 1943, introduced by Assembly Member Weber. This bill is pivotal for enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of telehealth services within the Medi-Cal program, particularly benefiting California's senior population.

As an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for seniors, we have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that telehealth can have on elderly individuals, especially those residing in rural or underserved communities. Telehealth services provide a crucial lifeline to seniors who may face significant mobility challenges or who live far from healthcare facilities. By facilitating remote consultations and follow-ups, telehealth ensures that elderly patients receive timely medical attention, which is essential for managing chronic conditions and preventing health complications.

AB 1943 mandates the Department of Health Care Services to produce a comprehensive public report on telehealth in the Medi-Cal program. Such data-driven insights are invaluable for understanding the benefits and challenges of telehealth, enabling informed policy decisions that enhance healthcare delivery for seniors.

As we move forward, it is crucial to build on this momentum and integrate telehealth more deeply into our healthcare system. AB 1943 represents a significant step in this direction, promoting better health outcomes and quality of life for California's senior population. We strongly urge you to vote in favor of AB 1943 to ensure continued advancements in telehealth services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, particularly the elderly, who stand to gain the most from these innovations.

Sincerely,  
Aakrisht Mehra  
Founder/CEO  
Elderly Care Everywhere



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# **About Elderly Care Everywhere**

Elderly Care Everywhere is a transformative nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. Since its inception, the organization has positively impacted over 40,000 seniors through a variety of programs aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Elderly Care Everywhere has been instrumental in alleviating hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt, ensuring that seniors have access to the healthcare they need without the burden of financial stress. With more than 20 chapters across the United States, the organization extends its reach and resources to numerous communities, providing support and advocacy on a national scale.

Beyond U.S. borders, Elderly Care Everywhere has established flood relief camps in India, showcasing its commitment to global humanitarian efforts. The organization's impactful work has been recognized by the government of New Delhi, further highlighting its significant contributions to senior care and welfare. Through these efforts, Elderly Care Everywhere continues to lead the way in senior advocacy, ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect worldwide.

Thank you for your support of AB-1943. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org](mailto:connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org)