

August 25, 2026

Update to the Dementia Care Aware Program

Dear Provider,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently published an update regarding Cognitive Health Assessments (CHAs) and the Dementia Care Aware Program. Providers are no longer required to complete the DHCS Dementia Care Aware training to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for CHAs completed on or after June 30, 2025.

Learn more about this change in DHCS All-Plan Letter 26-014:

https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/APL26-014_d4abe7.pdf

What is the Dementia Care Aware program?

The Dementia Care Aware program is an initiative designed to train and empower primary care teams to conduct CHAs. Please note CHA training and other educational materials are still available through the Dementia Care Aware website:

<https://www.dementiacareaware.org>

What are cognitive health assessments?

Cognitive Health Assessments (or CHAs) are quick evaluations that check brain function (like memory, thinking, attention, and language) and are used by doctors to spot early signs of memory loss.

Please direct any additional questions to DHCS at QHEDAdmin@dhcs.ca.gov.

The Health Plan of San Mateo