

## Meeting Your Share of Cost

### What does "Share of Cost" mean?

"Share of Cost" is the amount you agree to pay for health care before Medi-Cal starts to pay. This is called "meeting your share of cost." Your Share of Cost is a set amount based on how much money you make. You only need to meet your Share of Cost in the months that you get health care services. After you meet your share of cost, Medi-Cal pays for your care the rest of that month.

### Does every Medi-Cal member have a Share of Cost?

No. Some members get "free Medi-Cal," and they do not have a Share of Cost. If you make too much money to qualify for free Medi-Cal, you will have a Share of Cost.

**Remember:** You may be able to get free Medi-Cal with no share of cost. Ask your county worker about free Medi-Cal programs.

Children with a Share of Cost may qualify for Healthy Families. Healthy Families is a low cost health insurance program for children. Healthy Families costs little, but covers fewer services than Medi-Cal. Ask your county Medi-Cal worker for more information.

### How much will my Share of Cost be?

The more money you make, the higher your Share of Cost is. You can complain if you think there is a mistake and your share of cost is too high. Look at the section below on "What can I do if I have a problem with my share of cost?"

### How can I meet my Share of Cost more easily?

- **Plan to get all non-urgent medical and dental appointments in the same month.** Medi-Cal pays for all your care the rest of that month after you meet your Share of Cost.
- **Ask your doctor to prescribe 2 to 3 months worth of medicine at a time.** Medi-Cal pays for all the medicine after you meet your Share of Cost.
- **Use receipts for health items to meet your Share of Cost.** You can apply what you have already paid for health items toward your Share of Cost. This is true even if Medi-Cal does not cover what you

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