

Provider Update

News for Kaiser Permanente Washington Contracted Providers • March 2023

Introducing new Kaiser Permanente Washington regional president

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that, after a national search, Angela Dowling has been named regional president, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington, effective February 13, 2023.



Angela Dowling named Washington regional president

Angela is a forward-thinking health care leader with a proven track record for delivering positive business results. She also is known for her collaborative approach to building strategic plans that achieve her organization's goals while meeting the needs of customers.

She joins us from Cambia Health Solutions where she served as Oregon plan president for Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield, part of Cambia Health Solution's family of companies.

Angela has held several increasingly responsible positions that uniquely position her to lead the Washington market region.

In her role as Oregon plan president, she led sales teams at Cambia, UnitedHealthCare, and Aetna; served as chief revenue officer at

Cambia and Payne Financial Group; and worked in business development with Hewitt Associates.

Angela was recognized as a Portland Business Journal Women of Influence Award winner in 2014. She currently serves on the boards of Oregon Business & Industry, Oregon Food Bank, and Oregon Healthcare Leadership Council. Join us in welcoming Angela to Kaiser Permanente and the Washington team.

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Provider Update is published quarterly for Kaiser Permanente contracted providers. Send story ideas and comments to [Provider Communications](#).

Coverage provided by Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington or Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc., referred to as Kaiser Permanente in this publication.

Biosimilar adalimumab-atto (Amjevita) now available!

ADALIMUMAB-ATTO (AMJEVITA) was the first FDA-approved biosimilar to adalimumab (Humira). Amjevita was approved by the FDA in 2016, but it was not until recently that Amjevita, manufactured by Amgen, was launched to market. With its availability and with the support of our doctors, specialty providers, and pharmacists, Kaiser Permanente of Washington has made Amjevita our preferred adalimumab product.

Your Kaiser Permanente members were sent a letter with this exciting news, so they may contact you with questions or ask for assistance getting a new prescription for Amjevita.

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2023 Calendar



EFT deposit and check mail dates

Provider reimbursement checks are scheduled to be deposited ACH or mailed on the following dates. Mailed checks should arrive within approximately three business days.

MARCH 7, 9, 16, 23, 30

APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27

MAY 4, 11, 18, 25

JUNE 2, 7, 15, 22, 29

JULY 7, 13, 20, 27

AUGUST 7, 10, 17, 24, 31

Kaiser Permanente holidays

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 29

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Tuesday, July 4

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 4

PROVIDER NEWS

New toolkit offers guidance and resources for people with persistent pain

The [Center for Accelerating Care Transformation](#) (ACT Center), part of Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute (KPWHRI), recently released a new resource for people living with persistent pain. Called the *Toolkit for Managing Persistent Pain*, it provides practical tips to help anyone living with ongoing pain.

The freely available toolkit is designed to support people wherever they are in their pain management journey - from learning about ongoing pain and management strategies, to preparing for a medical appointment and then navigating the health care system. It describes how persistent pain impacts body and mind, explains the roles of patients and care teams in managing pain, and provides self-management resources such as journal prompts, trackers, and tools to prepare for medical appointments. The toolkit closes with a list of books, websites, and other additional resources. Everything included in the toolkit is free for anyone to download and use.

The [Integrated Pain Management](#) (IPM) project team—made up of KPWHRI researchers and four patient partners who are Kaiser Permanente Washington members living with ongoing pain – co-designed the toolkit. The toolkit is written from the perspective of the patient partners.



Toolkit for Managing Persistent Pain

“We are experts on living with ongoing pain, and this toolkit is guided by our personal experiences. Our goal is to help other people living with pain,” write the patient partners.

The IPM project team works with patients, care teams, and leaders at Kaiser Permanente Washington to provide whole-person care for people with pain and provide safe alternatives to opioids. Many of the resources created by the team, including provider scripting, reference guides, and patient education materials, are available on the [Quality Resources page](#) on our provider site under “Pain and opioid management.”

If you have any questions about this work, please contact IPM team member Kelsey Stefanik-Guizlo at Kelsey.i.stefanik-guizlo@kp.org.

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Biosimilar adalimumab-atto (Amjevita) now available!

Why is this change happening?

- This change to using biosimilar drugs supports Kaiser Permanente’s mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services to all our members.
- Amjevita has the same active ingredient, works the same way in the body, and is just as safe and effective as Humira for the treatment of medical conditions.

How does this affect your patient(s)?

- Amjevita is placed on a lower tier and is covered as a more cost-effective medicine under their pharmacy benefit plan.
- For patients with Commercial coverage, starting **April 25, 2023**, Humira will only be covered under their pharmacy benefit plan if they have tried and failed Amjevita.
- Amgen patient financial support is available for Commercial members using Amjevita.

How does this affect you?

- Begin e-prescribing Amjevita for patients with Kaiser Permanente insurance.
- If your patient is currently receiving Humira, please submit a new e-prescription for Amjevita.
- If your patient has already tried Amjevita and it did not work for them, please submit an authorization to continue coverage for Humira.

Thank you for the care you provide our members. We appreciate your support as we transition our members to Amjevita. If you have any questions, please contact the Provider Assistance Unit at 888-767-4670.

If you have any questions about clinical coverage for medication, please contact the our Drug Benefit Help Desk, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 206-901-4411, option 1, or 800-729-1174, option 1.

HEDIS® medical record review season: February - May 2023

From February through mid-May 2023, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington will be conducting HEDIS medical record reviews on members enrolled in a Kaiser Permanente plan in 2022 to measure the quality of care provided to our members. Our medical record reviewers will be contacting your office to request remote access to your electronic medical record system (preferred), and/or request that medical records are faxed or mailed. We appreciate your assistance in providing access to the medical information as requested. Your prompt response will ensure that your group’s HEDIS measures accurately represent the high quality of care that you provide to our members.



Viewing contracts in Eligibility & Inquiry tool on Affiliate Link

AS YOU KNOW, WE INTRODUCED the ability to view member contracts on the provider portal under Eligibility & Benefits Inquiry last year. We wanted to remind you that there will be a short delay in your ability to view the contracts as we load the new 2023 contracts. The expected timetable for viewing new contracts will be:

- 50% of contracts will be available by January 31st
- 95% of contracts will be available by February 28th
- The remaining 5% of contracts will be available by March 31st

Please note that self-funded plans are not viewable on this tool due to the approval process under these plans. Thank you for your patience as we add the new contracts to our system. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Provider Assistance Unit at 888-767-4670.

No-cost health goals workshop available for Kaiser Permanente members

Your Kaiser Permanente patients have access to free online Better Choices, Better Health® self-management workshops.

Better Choices, Better Health is a great option to help support your patient's health goals. This 6-week evidence-based workshop is filled with tips and techniques to help patients manage health concerns that impact their daily life.

This free, personalized program offers:

- Help making action plans and solving problems
- Tips for healthier food choices
- Help designing a personal exercise program
- Tools for managing pain and fatigue
- Breathing exercises
- Medication management

- How to deal with stress, anger, fear, and frustration
- How to be an active partner with the health care team
- Support from other participants who might be going through similar situations

At the end of the workshop, an online, moderated community is available to help our members continue their health journey.

“It was great to have support and understanding regarding my chronic condition, and I was offered many helpful tools in how to manage regular life with my chronic condition.”

“Inspiring! Gives me hope that I can do this and commit to the things I need to do to help me. It's always comforting to know that we are not alone in this.”

This workshop is offered at no cost to Kaiser Permanente members as part of their member benefit.

Workshop enrollment also includes a free copy of *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions* to enhance their learning.

Find out more by visiting our Kaiser Permanente public site's [Better Choices, Better Health](#) page. Kaiser Permanente members can register by going to <https://enroll-kpwa1.selfmanage.org/>.



Recent letters to providers

Effective April 1, 2023

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Genetic Screening and Testing \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are revising existing criteria and implementing medical necessity criteria for Genetic Screening and Testing.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for MRI cervical \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are updating the clinical review criteria for MRI of cervical spine.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for certain elective surgical procedures \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement level of care review for certain elective surgical procedures.

[Breast reconstruction free flap procedure \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will not reimburse services for breast reconstruction free flap procedure when billed with HCPCS codes S2066; S2067 and S2068 unless otherwise specified by the specific contract terms. These HCPCS codes are reimbursable under CPT code 19364.

[Canalith repositioning procedure \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will reimburse Canalith repositioning procedure CPT 95992, when the procedure is billed with CMS approved diagnosis codes.

[Laboratory payment policy \(PDF\)](#)

Claims processed by Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will include, but are not limited to, the following criteria when processing laboratory claims.

Effective May 1, 2023

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for thoracic spine Magnetic Resonance Imaging \(MRI\) \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement medical necessity criteria for MRI of the thoracic spine for non-Medicare patients.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria Pharmacogenomics \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) is updating the clinical review criteria for Pharmacogenomics testing.

Effective June 1, 2023

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy \(IMRT\) \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) have revised the clinical review criteria for Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) for non-Medicare members.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Stereotactic Radiation Therapy \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) have revised the clinical review criteria for Stereotactic Radiosurgery for non-Medicare members.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for PSMA PET Scans \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement clinical review criteria for PSMA PET Scans.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Pluvicto™ \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement clinical review criteria for the radiopharmaceutical,

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Recent letters to providers

Pluvicto (formerly 177Lu-PSMA), for Medicare and non-Medicare members.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for PET scans \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are updating the clinical review criteria for PET Scans.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for total hip arthroplasty \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of

Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement clinical review criteria for total hip arthroplasty for all non-Medicare members and will review Medicare members against CMS criteria.

[Changes to medical necessity review criteria for minimally invasive sacroiliac joint \(sij\) fusions \(PDF\)](#)

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement clinical review criteria for minimally invasive sacroiliac joint fusions for all Medicare and non-Medicare members.

Have you made any recent changes to your practice?

Don't forget to let us know so we can update our provider directory.

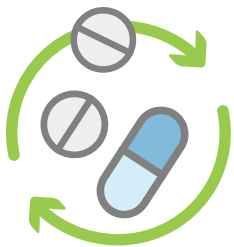
On our provider site [home page](#), click on Provider Support, and choose [Provider Demographic and/or Practice Changes](#). You will find several helpful links on that page to provide us with information.

Thank you for helping us maintain a compliant and accurate provider directory.



PHARMACY NEWS

Change in opioid refill threshold



What is the change?

The refill threshold for opioid medications will be changing from 75% to 85% effective April 1st, 2023. This means that members will need to have used up at least 85% of their medication before a refill can be covered.

Why are we making this change?

This change will help us better manage the dispensing of opioid medications and ensure that they are being used appropriately. It will also help us stay in compliance with federal and state regulations.

What does this mean for prescribers?

Pharmacy may reach out to prescribers if patients are trying to refill their opioid prescriptions before 85% of the existing supply is consumed, or if patients are going through their refills faster than expected.

This does not affect prescriptions that specify a length of time they should last. For example, any prescription saying "to last 28 days" will not be filled until 28 days have lapsed.



Kaiser Permanente 2023 drug formularies

THE KAISER PERMANENTE DRUG FORMULARIES are the cornerstone of medication therapy, quality assurance, and cost containment. The formularies are developed by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee.

You can find [formulary decision highlights](#) from the most recent P&T Committee meetings on the Kaiser Permanente provider website.

Kaiser Permanente has 7 formularies

The table below outlines some of the major differences in these formularies. A closed formulary design describes a formulary in which preferred medications are covered and non-preferred (non-formulary) medications are generally not covered. Coverage of non-preferred medications is available through an exception process. An open formulary design describes a formulary in which both preferred and

non-preferred medications are covered; however, preferred medications are available at a lower cost share for patients.

How to view the Kaiser Permanente formularies

- On the [Kaiser Permanente provider website](#).
- On [ePocrates](#), register free of charge.

For questions about formulary status of a drug or prior authorization, please contact our Pharmacy Drug Benefit Help Desk toll-free at 800-729-1174 or by fax toll-free at 866-510-1765.

Medicare Part D Formulary updates

Notifications about drug removals from the Medicare Part D Formulary are now posted online on the [pharmacy page](#) of our provider website.

MEDICARE	INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY / SMALL GROUP	LARGE GROUP AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT				
Closed Design	Open Design	Closed Design	Closed Design	Open Design	Open Design	Open Design
<p>Six tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Non-preferred generic • Preferred brand • Non-preferred brand • Specialty • Injectable Part D vaccines 	<p>Four tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Preferred brand • Specialty • Non-preferred generic & brand <p>PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-administered oncology • Medical benefit 	<p>Two tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Preferred brand 	<p>Three tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Preferred brand • Preferred specialty 	<p>Three tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Preferred brand • Non-preferred 	<p>Four tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Preferred brand • Non-preferred generic & brand • Specialty 	<p>Five tiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred generic • Preferred brand • Non-preferred generic & brand • Preferred specialty • Non-preferred specialty

Save these dates



Kaiser Permanente Washington offers a variety of continuing medical education courses throughout the year, detailed on our [CME catalog page](#).

DERMATOLOGY FOR PRIMARY CARE

Friday, April 28, 2023 (Virtual)

Teledermatology, Common conditions, Acne, Procedures, Cutaneous surgery, How to interpret a pathology report, Case presentations.

DIABETES FOR PRIMARY CARE

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 (Virtual)

Diabetes and Population Health programs, Case presentations, Continuous glucose monitors (criteria, referral, and data interpretation), Screening, Sick day kits, Pregnancy preconception, and more.

SUBOXONE HALF-HALF BUPRENORPHINE WAIVER

Friday, July 14, 2023 (Virtual)

4-hour virtual training focusing on specifics of treating patients with opioid use disorders in office-based settings and clinical vignettes to help trainees think through "real life" experiences in opioid use disorders treatment.

MEDICATION UPDATE FOR PRIMARY CARE

Thursday, September 14, 2023 (Virtual)

SCLT-2 inhibitors and Sacubitril/Valsartan, Hyperlipidemia, SMART therapy for asthma, Gender affirming HRT, HIV update, Pharmacotherapy for weight loss, Case presentations.

Register

Check out the [CME catalog page](#) to register and get course details.

Contact

Christopher Scott
Christopher.J.Scott@kp.org

Fall/Winter 2023 CME Courses

EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE

September 20, 2023

PEDIATRICS FOR PRIMARY CARE

October 13, 2023

RADIOLOGY FOR PRIMARY CARE

November 09, 2023

SKILLS & PROCEDURES

December 13, 2023