

PROTOCOL FOR HOW TO ACCESS INTERPRETING SERVICES (Face-to-Face, Over-the-Phone & American Sign Languages)

Why does Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan provide Free Interpreting Services?

"Federal Law requires that health care providers who see all government programs mem-bers provide free language assistance to limited English proficient (LEP) and hard-of-hearing or deaf persons. In order for you to meet this legal requirement, Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan is providing Over-the-Phone, Face-to-Face and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting services at no cost to Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan providers and members."

When is Over-the-Phone Interpreting Services recommended?

- ♦ When you identify a patient as being limited English proficient (LEP) and the patient is already present at the office, telephone interpretation should be used immediately to avoid any delay in service.
- ♦ Telephone interpretation is available 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.
- ♦ When a LEP patient requests it.

DURING BUSINESS HOURS:

1. Call Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan

Customer Care Department

Medi-Cal (All counties)1-800-605-2556
Medicare (All counties)1-800-544-0088
Cal-Medi Connect (All counties)1-855-905-3825

OR

2. Call Pacific Interpreters

Alameda(ACCESS CODE: 845311)1-877-904-8195
Los Angeles(ACCESS CODE: 840609)1-877-904-8195
San Diego(ACCESS CODE: 838600)1-877-904-8195
San Francisco ..(ACCESS CODE: 845310).....1-877-904-8195
San Joaquin....(ACCESS CODE: 842613)1-877-904-8195
Santa Clara(ACCESS CODE: 841676)1-877-904-8195
Stanislaus(ACCESS CODE: 842615)1-877-904-8195
Texas(ACCESS CODE: 846273)1-877-904-8195

AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:

1. Call Pacific Interpreters

All counties (ACCESS CODE: 828201)
1-877-904-8195

- A Pacific Interpreters Member Services Agent will ask for the following information:

- ACCESS CODE
- Member's First & Last Name & Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan ID#
- Language Needed

• Is this a Medi-Cal, Medicare, or Cal-Medi Connect Member?

2. If your office has After Hours Answering Services:

Please ensure that their staff members can speak languages other than English; Please ensure that they know how to connect to an interpreter over the telephone.

3. If your office has On-Call Physicians/Nurses:

Please ensure that they know how to connect to an interpreter over the telephone.

4. If your office has an answering machine:

Please let the patients know that they need to call Pacific Interpreters.

PROTOCOL FOR HOW TO ACCESS INTERPRETING SERVICES (Face-to-Face, Over-the-Phone & American Sign Languages)

When are Face-to-Face and American Sign Language interpreting services recommended?

- ♦ To explain complex medical consultation or education (i.e. medical diagnosis, treatment options, insulin instructions, etc.) to a LEP or a hard-of-hearing or deaf member.
- ♦ When a LEP patient requests it.

All requests must be made with advance notice (amount of days may vary based on the company), please contact Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan Customer Care Department for further assistance:

Medi-Cal	1-800-605-2556
Medicare	1-800-544-0088
Cal-Medi Connect	1-855-905-3825

When is LifeSigns (American Sign Language) recommended?

- ♦ In case of emergency or after business hours for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, please call: LifeSigns at 1-800-633-8883

Please contact Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan Member Services Department at least 48 Hours in advance if the appointment has been CANCELLED or RESCHEDULED.

When is California Relay Service (TTY/Telecommunication Device for Deaf - TDD) recommended?

- ♦ When your office staff need to communicate with the hard-of-hearing or deaf patients, please call California Relay Service:

English 1-888-877-5379
Spanish 1-888-877-5381

- ♦ When your hard-of-hearing or deaf patients need assistance to call your office or Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, please dial:

1-800-735-2929 (Los Angeles) or 711
1-866-461-4288 (San Diego)

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND:

1. Always document the member's preferred language in the member's medical record.
2. Always document the request or refusal of interpreting services in the member's medical record.
3. Always post an "Interpreting Services Signs" at key medical and non-medical points of contact.
4. Please discourage patients of using friends and family members as interpreters unless the member requests it after being informed about the availability of the free interpreter services.