

**2**

**Million Consumers Assisted**

The DMHC Help Center educates consumers about their rights, resolves consumer complaints, helps consumers navigate and understand their coverage, and ensures access to health care services.

**2016 Consumer Assistance Data:**

- ✓ 164,573 Telephone Inquiries
- ✓ 14,012 Consumer Complaints
- ✓ 5,369 Independent Medical Review Cases
- ✓ 4,819 Non-jurisdictional Referrals

The DMHC protects the health care rights of approximately

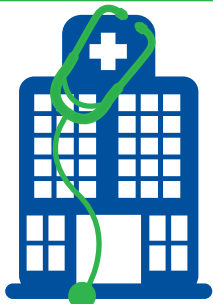
**26**

**Million Californians**



**\$71**

**Million recovered**



in payments to physicians and hospitals

**95%**

Of commercial and public health plan enrollment is regulated by the DMHC

**124**  
 LICENSED HEALTH PLANS

- 74** Full Service
- 50** Specialized

As of 12/31/16

**\$62**

**Million assessed against health plans that violated the law**



Health care premiums saved through the DMHC's rate review program

**\$102.4**

**Million saved since 2011**

**\$1.3**

**Million saved in 2016**



Created by consumer-sponsored legislation in 1999, the DMHC regulates the majority of health coverage in California including 95 percent of the commercial and government markets.

The DMHC is funded by health plan assessments on the 124 licensed plans it regulates, with no taxpayer contributions. This includes 74 full service health plans that provide health coverage to approximately 26 million enrollees and 50 specialized plans such as dental and vision.

## KNOW YOUR HEALTH CARE RIGHTS

### In California, health plan members have many rights:

- The right to choose your primary doctor
- The right to an appointment when you need one
- The right to see a specialist when medically necessary
- The right to receive treatment for certain mental health conditions
- The right to get a second doctor's opinion
- The right to know why your plan denies a service or treatment
- The right to understand your health problems and treatments
- The right to translation and interpreter services
- The right to see a written diagnosis (description of your health problem)
- The right to give informed consent when you have a treatment
- The right to file a complaint and ask for an Independent Medical Review (an external appeal of your health plan's denial of services or treatment)
- The right to a copy of your medical records (you may be charged for the copying)
- The right to continue to see your doctor if they no longer participate in your plan under certain circumstances (continuity of care)
- The right to be notified of an unreasonable rate increase
- The right to not be illegally billed by a health care provider

#### The DMHC Protects Consumers' Health Care Rights

The DMHC provides assistance to all California health care consumers through the Help Center. The Help Center assists consumers with understanding their health care rights, benefits and to resolve health plan issues.

The Help Center provides help in many languages and formats. Help is available by calling 1-888-466-2219 or at [www.HealthHelp.ca.gov](http://www.HealthHelp.ca.gov). All services are free.

The DMHC protects consumers' health care rights through enforcing the Knox-Keene Act, a body of law first established in 1975 that laid the foundation for robust health plan regulation and consumer protections. The Department works to aggressively monitor and take timely action against plans that violate the law.

#### The DMHC Ensures a Stable Health Care Delivery System

The Department's focus is to protect consumers' rights while advancing coverage models that maximize access, quality and affordability. The DMHC does this through licensing health plans that operate in California, conducting medical surveys of licensed health plans and actively monitoring the financial stability of health plans and medical groups to ensure consumers get the care they need.

The DMHC also reviews proposed health plan premium rates to protect consumers from unreasonable or unjustified increases. The Department's efforts improve transparency and accountability in health plan rate setting; however, the DMHC does not have the authority to deny rate increases.