

PAYERS & GOVERNMENT HEALTH PROGRAMS

Introduction

The health care system includes a complex web of health care payers, from government programs to commercial insurers.

Public insurance, known as Medicaid (state-based program) and Medicare (national program), are two of the most well-known government-funded programs. In California, the Medicaid program is called Medi-Cal. Both Medicare and Medi-Cal provide medical coverage but serve different populations and operate under specific rules. These programs are further broken down by management and administration, with traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and Medicaid Managed Care. Traditional Medicare and Medicaid are administered through the government, while Medicare Advantage and Medicaid Managed Care are often administered through a designated managed care organization or commercial insurer.

Commercial insurers provide health coverage for individuals or groups (e.g., employer-sponsored plans) and contract with public insurance in the form of Medicare Advantage and Medicaid Managed Care.