



Needed HMIS Data Elements for Partnering with Managed Care Plans

As part of CalAIM, there is a significant push to build and strengthen partnerships between health and homeless systems of care. Continuums of Care (CoCs) and their county partners collect information about people experiencing homelessness in their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Much of the data collected are elements required by HUD.



With growing partnerships with Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs), HMIS can be an important tool to help coordinate and communicate about clients and MCP members who touch both systems. In many communities, the current HMIS does not require partners to enter detailed information about people’s health care coverage or experiences in the health care system. However, there are data elements (sometimes called “data fields”) that could be added to HMIS to capture important information to track activity at the cross-section of health and homelessness.

The table below identifies data elements that are valuable for cross-sector data sharing that can better enable partners to work in a more coordinated and collaborative fashion. CoCs should consider asking their HMIS vendors to add these data fields to their local HMIS if they are not already there and should ensure providers collect the information and enter it in HMIS. Where possible, CoCs should coordinate or discuss these with their local MCPs to ensure any new data fields added to HMIS and associated technical specifications are optimized to facilitate data matching or sharing.

Data Element	Importance	Notes
Enrolled in Medi-Cal?	Identifies if client has health coverage through California’s Medicaid program or would benefit from help applying for Medi-Cal.	Health Insurance is a Program-Specific Data Element (4.04) required for federal reporting and so should already appear in each community’s HMIS. When an HMIS user notes in HMIS that a person is covered by health insurance, they also indicate all insurance sources that apply, one of which is Medicaid. For anyone enrolled in Medi-Cal (California’s Medicaid program), that option should be selected.
Medi-Cal managed care plan	For people enrolled in Medi-Cal, identifies the specific MCP for better collaboration.	In some communities, there is more than one MCP to choose from under Medi-Cal. Some CoCs have created MCP programs in HMIS so clients can be enrolled in those programs when they are confirmed to be MCP members. This allows other information (including ECM and Community Supports – see below) to be tracked as services within those programs.
Medi-Cal Client Index number (CIN)	If someone’s Medi-Cal MCP is unknown, their Medi-Cal number can be used to help identify what MCP is providing them coverage. Having this number can also help CoC providers assist clients with checking on benefits and ensuring their coverage remains current.	For clients who have their Medi-Cal card, CoCs should consider scanning it and uploading it to HMIS.

Data Element	Importance	Notes
<p>Other insurance</p>	<p>Especially if someone is not enrolled in Medi-Cal, it is helpful to know if they have other insurance. If they do not have Medi-Cal or other insurance, staff can help them apply for health coverage.</p>	<p>This information should already be collected as a matter of practice by CoC providers, under Program-Specific Data Element 4.04.</p> <p>For clients who have their health insurance card, CoCs should consider scanning it and uploading it to HMIS.</p>
<p>Enrolled in Enhanced Care Management (ECM) through their managed care plan?</p> <p>If yes: name of ECM provider and care manager</p>	<p>ECM is an important benefit that provides someone to coordinate each person’s care. Knowing whether someone is enrolled in ECM and if so, who their ECM provider and care manager is, can help staff enhance coordination of services.</p>	<p>This may not be something a client will know. MCPs can provide this information to HMIS through bi-lateral data sharing. See Bi-lateral Data Sharing Agreement Between a Continuum of Care and Managed Care Plan and Sample Workflow for Continuums of Care and Managed Care Plans to Conduct a Client Data Match in this Toolkit.</p>
<p>Receiving Community Supports (CS) through their managed care plan?</p> <p>If yes, for each Community Support, what is the status (options: referred; authorized) and, if authorized, name of provider.</p>	<p>There are important housing-related Community Supports that clients may be receiving. Identifying the CS services they are getting from their MCP can help ensure non-duplication and maximize the services clients can receive.</p>	<p>This may not be something a client will know. MCPs can provide this information to HMIS through bi-lateral data sharing.</p> <p>This will likely require separate fields/data elements for each kind of Community Support.</p>
<p>Receiving any medical care through street outreach or street medicine?</p>	<p>CalAIM now covers medical professionals who provide services onsite at encampments and sometimes even shelters. Knowing if clients are receiving such care enhances coordination and the ability to track and update how a person is doing on the street.</p>	<p>This may be accomplished by creating Street Outreach and/or Street Medicine programs in HMIS so clients receiving services and care can be enrolled in those programs and additional details can be more easily added and tracked.</p>