



Contacts: Ruben Mejia, Office of the Patient Advocate  
Claudia Coons, Office of the Patient Advocate

(916) 445-3110, [ruben.mejia@opa.ca.gov](mailto:ruben.mejia@opa.ca.gov)  
(916) 322-8129, [claudia.coons@opa.ca.gov](mailto:claudia.coons@opa.ca.gov)

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## CALIFORNIA TO RELEASE 2017 HMO, PPO, AND MEDICAL GROUP RATINGS

*Office of the Patient Advocate unveils new Health Plan Report Card*

(Sacramento) – During open enrollment, millions of Californians make important choices regarding their health care. Today, the Office of the Patient Advocate (OPA) released the 2017-18 edition of its Health Care Quality [Report Cards](#), an online tool to help Californians make informed decisions when choosing a health plan.

“This detailed and unbiased health plan information is a valuable, easy to use tool,” said OPA Director Elizabeth Abbott. “I hope these report cards can continue to help Californians make informed health care choices.”

The Report Cards rate California’s ten largest Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), six largest Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO) and over 200 commercial medical groups on quality, patient experience, and medical group costs. Health plans and medical groups can be searched either alphabetically or by county and their scores can be compared side-by-side. Consumers can also compare how health plans and medical groups performed when caring for patients with specific health conditions such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, and heart care.

The Report Cards also provide ratings on patient experience measures related to getting care easily, satisfaction with plan doctors and services, and communication between doctors and patients. Also, for the first time, HMOs and PPOs are combined into one Report Card. Consumers can not only sort and filter Health Plans alphabetically, and by rating, but can also directly compare HMOs alongside PPOs.

The Report Cards offer a detailed assessment of health plans and medical groups who are especially effective in diagnosing and/or treating different health conditions. Several California health plans exceed national performance averages for diabetes care, mental health, and most pediatric measures. This includes individual plan and group scores for specific measures, such as:

- Checking if weight gain could cause health problems in both children and adults
- Controlling blood pressure and blood sugar for diabetic patients
- Ensuring follow-up visits after a hospital stay for mental illness
- Scheduling treatment for children with throat and upper respiratory infections

The report cards are available online at [www.opa.ca.gov](http://www.opa.ca.gov).

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*The Office of the Patient Advocate's mission is to improve California health care quality and advocate for consumer interests by publicly reporting data for informed decision making.*