

Grievance Form

Sutter Health Plus

If you have encountered any difficulties or have had any concerns with Sutter Health Plus or a Sutter Health Plus provider, please give us a chance to help. You have up to 180 calendar days from the date of the incident that caused your dissatisfaction to submit a grievance.

Note: You are not required to use this form to file a grievance or complaint. If you prefer, you may telephone Sutter Health Plus at 855-315-5800 (TTY users call 855-830-3500) to file your complaint or grievance.

If you wish to use this form to start the grievance process, fill out the form below. Describe the situation in detail, including the specific details of the problem such as where and when it happened, and what you believe Sutter Health Plus can do to resolve the concern.

Member Name

Sutter Health Plus ID#

Date of Birth

Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone #

Email Address

Name of Person Filing the Grievance & Relationship *(if other than member)*

Best way to reach you

Best hours

Details of your complaint: (Please be as specific as possible with dates, times and the nature of the problem. Include the names, if any, of anyone in Sutter Health Plus or the provider office with whom you discussed this. Use the other side of this form or additional sheets if you need more room.)

If you have received a denial for treatment, services, or supplies deemed experimental and have an incurable or irreversible condition that has a high probability of causing death within one year or less (terminal illness), and you would like to request a conference as part of the grievance system, please place a check mark in the space below.

Yes, I have a terminal illness and am requesting a conference

Signature

Date

Please send your completed Grievance Form to:

Sutter Health Plus

Attn: Appeals & Grievances Department

P.O. Box 160305

Sacramento, CA 95816

Fax: 916-736-5422 (Toll-Free 855-759-8755)

Phone - Member Services: 855-315-5800 (TTY 855-830-3500)

Note: If this case involves an imminent and serious threat to the member including, but not limited to, severe pain, the potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function, please telephone Sutter Health Plus at: 855-315-5800 (TTY users call 855-830-3500) to file your complaint or grievance. You may also call the California Department of Managed Health Care at 888-466-2219 or use the TDD line (877-688-9891).

Notice to the Member or Your Representative

The California Department of Managed Health Care is responsible for regulating health care service plans.

If you have a grievance against your health plan, you should first telephone your health plan at **1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500)** and use your health plan's grievance process before contacting the department. Utilizing this grievance procedure does not prohibit any potential legal rights or remedies that may be available to you. If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your health plan, or a grievance that has remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the department for assistance. You may also be eligible for an Independent Medical Review (IMR). If you are eligible for an IMR, the IMR process will provide an impartial review of medical decisions made by a health plan related to the medical necessity of a proposed service or treatment, coverage decisions for treatments that are experimental or investigational in nature and payment disputes for emergency or urgent medical services. The department also has a toll-free telephone number (**1-888-466-2219**) and a TDD line (**1-877-688-9891**) for the hearing and speech impaired. The department's internet website **www.dmhc.ca.gov** has complaint forms, IMR application forms and instructions online.

Grievance Process Overview

Policy

Sutter Health Plus established a formal grievance process because we want members to be satisfied with their health care. The formal grievance process addresses member concerns, complaints, appeals, or requests to review a coverage decision. This process provides members with fair treatment of their grievance and a prompt response that complies with all required standards.

Sutter Health Plus handles all member information confidentially in compliance with Sutter Health Plus policies and procedures as well as applicable laws and regulations. Sutter Health Plus does not and will not discriminate against any member who has filed a grievance.

Sutter Health Plus will ensure that all members have access to and can fully participate in the grievance system by helping those with limited English proficiency or with visual or other communicative impairments. Such assistance will include, but is not limited to, translation of grievance procedures, forms, and plan responses to grievances, as well as access to interpreters, telephone relay systems, and other devices that help individuals with disabilities communicate.

Definition of a Grievance

A grievance is a written or oral expression of dissatisfaction regarding the plan and/or provider, including, but not limited to, concerns with quality of care, quality of service and access to care concerns, and will include a complaint, dispute, request for reconsideration, or appeal made by a member or the member's representative.

When Sutter Health Plus is unable to distinguish between a grievance and an inquiry, it will be considered a grievance.

Members have up to 180 calendar days from the date of the incident that caused the member's dissatisfaction to submit a grievance to Sutter Health Plus.

File a Grievance

A member may file a grievance or have a representative file a grievance. A member may appoint any individual (such as a relative, friend, advocate, attorney, or physician) to act as the member's representative and file a grievance on his/her behalf. Members must appoint a representative in writing. Also, a representative may be authorized by a court to act in accordance with State law to file a grievance for a member.

Members can file a grievance by contacting the Sutter Health Plus Member Services Department toll free at:

Sutter Health Plus
855-315-5800
(TTY 855-830-3500)

A trained Sutter Health Plus Member Services representative will try to answer questions or resolve the concerns and issues expressed during the call. If the Sutter Health Plus Member Services representative cannot resolve the situation, ask the representative for more information about how to file a grievance.

- If preferred, members may mail a grievance or submit the Grievance Form in writing to:

Sutter Health Plus
Attn: Appeals & Grievances Department
P.O. Box 160305
Sacramento, CA 95816
Fax: 916-736-5422 (Toll-Free 855-759-8755)

Please include detailed information about the questions or situation, the reasons for dissatisfaction, and the desired resolution. If members want help filing a grievance, call Sutter Health Plus Member Services and a representative will help complete the Grievance Form or explain how to write the letter. They will also be happy to take the information over the phone.

- Members can fill out a grievance form available at the provider's office
- Members can submit the Grievance Form online at: sutterhealthplus.org

Please tell us if this case involves an imminent and serious threat to the member including, but not limited to, severe pain, the potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function.

Grievances Related to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

U.S. Behavioral Health Plan, California (USBHPC) administers all levels of review under the Sutter Health Plus Grievance Process for complaints regarding mental health and substance use disorder services. If a member has an inquiry or concern regarding mental health or substance use disorder benefits, the member should first call the USBHPC Member Services Department at 855-202-0984. USBHPC makes every effort to resolve member inquiries or concerns through their Member Services Department.

Members may submit a verbal or written grievance to USBHPC Grievance Unit at:

USBHPC
Attn: Appeals & Grievances Department
P.O. Box 30512
Salt Lake City, UT 84130
Online: liveandworkwell.com
Telephone: 855-202-0984

Grievance forms and filing information are available through the USBHPC Member Services Department.

Standard Grievance Review

Sutter Health Plus will send an acknowledgment letter to the member within five calendar days of receipt of a standard grievance. We will fully investigate the grievance, including all aspects of medical care involved. If the grievance involves a quality of care, quality of service or access to care issue or involves medical decision-making, it is reviewed by the Sutter Health Plus Care Management Department, under the direction of the Medical Director of Care Management.

For standard grievances, a determination is made and the outcome is sent in writing to the member within 30 calendar days from our receipt of the grievance. The grievance outcome letter will include an explanation of the rationale for the decision.

Expedited Grievance Review

The grievance system includes an expedited review process for urgent grievances. A grievance is expedited when a delay in decision-making would pose an imminent and serious threat to the health of the member including, but not limited to, potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function. If the grievance qualifies for an expedited review, a member may request expedited review by contacting the Sutter Health Plus Member Services Department or by filing a complaint with the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) (see FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS below).

The Expedited Grievance process is initiated using one of the methods listed under "File a Grievance." Calling the Sutter Health Plus Member Services Department is the recommended method for requesting an expedited review.

Upon receipt of a grievance, we log the grievance and collect all necessary information in order to review and make a decision. After an appropriate clinical peer reviewer has reviewed all of the information and determined the case qualifies for expedited review, a written disposition is sent to the member and any applicable providers within three calendar days from our receipt of the grievance. The letter contains all rationale used in making the decision.

If a member makes a request for an expedited review and it is determined that the grievance does not qualify for an expedited review, Sutter Health Plus will review the grievance in the standard 30-day grievance process. Sutter Health Plus will notify the member by mail if the grievance does not qualify for expedited review.

Further Appeal Rights

Members may be able to pursue one or more of the following appeal processes, depending on the situation. Members can contact the Sutter Health Plus Member Services Department for help determining appeal rights.

1. File a complaint with the DMHC.

The California Department of Managed Health Care is responsible for regulating health care service plans.

If you have a grievance against your health plan, you should first telephone your health plan at **1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500)** and use your health plan's grievance process before contacting the department. Utilizing this grievance procedure does not prohibit any potential legal rights or remedies that may be available to you. If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your health plan, or a grievance that has remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the department for assistance. You may also be eligible for an Independent Medical Review (IMR).

If you are eligible for an IMR, the IMR process will provide an impartial review of medical decisions made by a health plan related to the medical necessity of a proposed service or treatment, coverage decisions for treatments that are experimental or investigational in nature and payment disputes for emergency or urgent medical services. The department also has a toll-free telephone number (1-888-466-2219) and a TDD line (1-877-688-9891) for the hearing and speech impaired. The department's internet website **www.dmhc.ca.gov** has complaint forms, IMR application forms and instructions online.

2. Request Independent Medical Review.

The independent medical review (IMR) process is in addition to any other procedures or remedies that may be available to you. You pay no application or processing fees of any kind for IMR. You have the right to provide information in support of the request for IMR. Sutter Health Plus must provide you with an IMR application form with any grievance disposition letter that denies, modifies, or delays health care services. A decision not to participate in the IMR process may cause you to forfeit any statutory right to pursue legal action against the plan regarding the disputed health care service.

Eligibility

- (a) Disputed Health Care Service. You may request an IMR of disputed health care services from the DMHC if you believe that health care services have been improperly denied, modified, or delayed by Sutter Health Plus or one of its contracting providers. A "Disputed Health Care Service" is any health care service eligible for coverage and payment under your subscriber contract that has been denied, modified, or delayed by Sutter Health Plus or one of its delegates, in whole or part on findings that the proposed services were not medically necessary. Your application for IMR will be reviewed by the DMHC to confirm that the conditions of eligibility set forth below are satisfied:
- i. The member's provider has recommended a health care service as medically necessary, OR the member has received an urgent care or emergency service that a provider determined was medically necessary, OR the member, in the absence of such a recommendation or the receipt of urgent care or emergency services, has been seen by an in-plan provider for the diagnosis or treatment of the medical condition for which the member seeks independent review.
 - ii. The Disputed Health Care Service has been denied, modified, or delayed by Sutter Health Plus or its delegated entity, based in whole or in part, on a decision that it is not medically necessary.

- iii. The member filed a grievance with Sutter Health Plus or its delegate and the disputed decision is upheld or the grievance remains unresolved past 30 days. If your grievance requires expedited review, you may bring it immediately to the DMHC's attention. The DMHC may waive the requirement that you follow the Sutter Health Plus grievance process in extraordinary and compelling cases.
 - iv. You apply for an IMR within six months after Sutter Health Plus sends you a written response to your grievance, unless the DMHC determines that circumstances prevented timely submission.
- (b) Investigational/Experimental Treatment. Sutter Health Plus excludes from coverage services, medication or procedures which are considered investigational and/or experimental treatments, and which are not accepted as standard medical practice for the treatment of a condition or illness. You may request an IMR from DMHC if Sutter Health Plus or its delegate denies a treatment, service or supply on the basis that it is experimental or investigational. Your application for IMR will be reviewed by the DMHC to confirm the conditions of eligibility set forth below are satisfied:
- i. The member has a Life-threatening or Seriously Debilitating Condition. "Life-threatening" means either a disease or condition where the likelihood of death is high unless the course of the disease is interrupted, or a disease or condition with potentially fatal outcomes, where the end point of clinical intervention is survival. "Seriously Debilitating" means a disease or condition that causes major irreversible morbidity.
 - ii. The member's physician has certified that standard therapies are or have not been effective in improving the member's condition, or would not be medically appropriate for the member, or there is no more beneficial standard therapy covered by Sutter Health Plus than the therapy proposed for the member.
 - iii. Either the member's physician, contracted with Sutter Health Plus, who has recommended the denied course of treatment that he/she certified in writing is likely to be more beneficial to the member than any available standard therapies, will include a statement of the evidence relied upon in his/her recommendation; or the member, or his/her physician who is a licensed, board-certified or board-eligible physician not contracted with Sutter Health Plus, but qualified to practice in the specialty appropriate to treat the member's condition, has requested a therapy that, based on two documents from the medical and scientific evidence, is likely to be more beneficial for the member than any available standard therapy.
 - iv. The member has been denied coverage by Sutter Health Plus for a drug, device, procedure, or other therapy recommended or requested pursuant to paragraph (b)(iii) above.
 - v. The specified denied therapy is one that would be a covered service, except for the Sutter Health Plus determination that the therapy is experimental or investigational for the given condition.

Process

To request an IMR, you may call the DMHC's toll-free telephone number (888-466-2219) or a TDD line (877-688-9891) for the hearing and speech impaired, or obtain IMR application forms and instructions online at the DMHC's website www.dmhc.ca.gov.

The DMHC will review your application and send you a letter within seven days telling you if you qualify for IMR. If your case is eligible for IMR, when all your information, including relevant medical records, is received by DMHC, the dispute will be submitted to a medical specialist at a review agency who will make an independent determination of whether or not the care is medically necessary.

Sutter Health Plus will gather all medical records and necessary documentation relevant to the member's condition and will forward all information to the review agency within three business days from the date we receive notice from the DMHC of the IMR request for standard requests, or within one calendar day for an expedited IMR.

You will receive a copy of the assessment made in your case. If the IMR determines the service is medically necessary, Sutter Health Plus will provide coverage for the health care service.

For non-urgent cases, the IMR organization designated by the DMHC must provide its determination within 30 calendar days of receipt of your application and supporting documentation. For urgent cases involving an Expedited Grievance, the IMR organization must provide its determination within three calendar days.

3. Binding Arbitration

If you continue to be dissatisfied with the results of the grievance process and wish to pursue the matter further, you must submit your claim or controversy to binding arbitration within 60 days of completion of the grievance process. The arbitration procedure is governed by the American Arbitration Association rules. Copies of these rules and other forms and information about arbitration are available by calling the American Arbitration Association at 800-778-7879 or visiting the website at adr.org.

All interested parties, including members, specifically agree to use Sutter Health Plus arbitration procedure in place of any rights they otherwise would have to submit any controversy or dispute to a court or jury. For a complete description of how to initiate arbitration, please refer to your subscriber agreement.

Notice of Language Assistance

IMPORTANT: Can you read this? If not, Sutter Health Plus can have somebody help you read it. You may also be able to get this written in your language. For no-cost help, please call Sutter Health Plus Member Services at 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500). (English)

IMPORTANTE: ¿Puede leer esto? Si no puede, Sutter Health Plus puede proporcionarle alguien que le ayude a leerlo. También puede obtenerlo por escrito en su idioma. Llame a Sutter Health Plus Member Services al 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500), sin costo alguno. (Spanish)

重要提示：您能讀懂這份文件嗎？如果不能，Sutter Health Plus 可以找人幫助您讀它。您還可能得到用您的語言書寫的這份文件。若需要免費幫助，請致電Sutter Health Plus會員服務，電話號碼 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500)。(Chinese)

ملحوظة مهمة: هل أنت قادر على قراءة هذا؟ إذا لم تكن قادراً فاعلم أن صتر هيلث بلاس (Sutter Health Plus) قد يكون لديهم شخصاً يمكنه مساعدتك في قراءة هذا النص. كما يمكنك أيضاً أن تتلقاه مكتوباً بلغتك. للحصول على مساعدة مجانية، برجاء الاتصال بخدمات أعضاء صتر هيلث بلاس (Sutter Health Plus Member Services) على هاتف 1-855-315-5800 (هاتف النص المرئي 1-855-830-3500[TTY]). (Arabic)

ԿԱՐԵՎՈՐ ՏԵՂԵԿԱՏՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ. Կարո՞ղ էք կարդալ սա: Եթե ոչ, Sutter Health Plus-ը կարող է տրամադրել մեկին, ով կօգնի Ձեզ կարդալ այն: Դուք կարող էք նաև ստանալ այն գրված Ձեր լեզվով: Անվճար օգնության համար խնդրում ենք զանգահարել Sutter Health Plus-ի Անդամների սպասարկման բաժին՝ 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500) հեռախոսահամարով: (Armenian)

សារ:សំខាន់៖ តើអ្នកអាចអានសច្ចកុដីនេះឬទេ? បើសិនមិនអាចទេ Sutter Health Plus អាចមាននរណាម្នាក់ជួយអានវាជូនអ្នក ។ អ្នកក៏អាចនឹងឲ្យមានសច្ចកុដីនេះសរសេរជាភាសាស្រីសម្រាប់អ្នកដទៃ។ សំរាប់ជំនួយជាយតតអស្តង្គត សូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅ ជុំនីកែសរសេរសមាជិក Sutter Health Plus តាមលេខ 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500)។ (Cambodian)

نکته مهم: آیا می توانید این مطالب را بخوانید و بفهمید؟ اگر نمی توانید، Sutter Health Plus می تواند از فردی کمک بگیرد تا آنرا برایتان بخواند. همچنین امکان ترجمه این مطالب به زبان فارسی وجود دارد. برای دریافت خدمات و کمک رایگان، لطفاً با دفتر خدمات اعضای Sutter Health Plus با شماره تلفن 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500) تماس بگیرید. (Farsi)

महत्वपूर्ण: क्या आप इसे पढ़ सकते/सकती हैं? यदि नहीं, तो सट्टर हेल्थ प्लस इसे पढ़ने में किसी से आपकी सहायता करवा सकता है। आप इसे अपनी भाषा में भी लिखवाने में समर्थ हो सकते/सकती हैं। निःशुल्क सहायता के लिए, कृपया 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500) पर सट्टर हेल्थ प्लस मेंबर सर्विस को कॉल करें। (Hindi)

LUS TSEEM CEEB: Koj nyeem puas tau tsab ntawv no? Yog koj nyeem tsis tau, Sutter Health Plus muaj neeg pab nyeem rau koj. Tsis tas li ntawd xwb, peb tuaj yeem muab sau ua hom lus koj nyeem tau rau koj tib si. Yog koj xav tau kev pab pub dawb, thov hu rau Sutter Health Plus Lub Chaw Pab Cuam Tswv Cuab ntawm tus xov tooj 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500). (Hmong)

重要なお知らせ：これを読むことができます？読めない場合は、Sutter Health Plus が読むのをお手伝いします。あなたの言語で表示できるかもしれません。無料のご相談は、Sutter Health Plus Member Services、電話: 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500) まで。(Japanese)

중요: 귀하는 이것을 읽으실 수 있습니까? 만약 읽으실 수 없다면, Sutter Health Plus 에서 다른 사람에게 부탁하여 그것을 읽으실 수 있도록 도와드릴 수 있습니다. 또한 이것을 귀하의 사용 언어로 작성해 받으실 수도 있습니다. Sutter Health Plus 회원 서비스 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500)에 전화를 하시어 무상으로 도움을 받으십시오. (Korean)

ໝາຍເຫດ: ທ່ານອ່ານໄດ້ຈັດໝາຍສະບັບນີ້ບໍ່? ຖ້າອ່ານບໍ່ໄດ້, ທາງ Sutter Health Plus ມື້ນັ້ນກຽມຊ່ວຍອ່ານໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ນອກຈາກນັ້ນ, ພວກເຮົາຍັງສາມາດຂຽນເປັນພາສາຂອງທ່ານໃຫ້ທ່ານອີກດ້ວຍ. ຖ້າທ່ານຕ້ອງການຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໂດຍບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າບໍລິການ, ກະລຸນາຕິດຕໍ່ ໜ່ວຍບໍລິການ ຂອງ Sutter Health Plus ທີ່ໝາຍເລກໂທລະສັບ 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500). (Laotian)

ਅਹਮਿ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ? ਜੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਤਾਂ, Sutter Health Plus (ਸੱਟਰ ਹੈਲਥ ਪਲਸ) ਕਸਿ ਤੋਂ ਇਹ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮੱਦਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵੀ ਲਿਖਵਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ। ਮੁਫਤ ਮੱਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰ ਕੇ Sutter Health Plus Member Services ਨੂੰ 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500) ਉੱਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

ВАЖНО: Вы можете это прочитать? Если нет, Sutter Health Plus может предоставить Вам кого-то, кто сможет помочь Вам прочитать это. Вы также можете получить это в письменной форме на своем языке. Для бесплатной помощи позвоните в Службу поддержки членов Sutter Health Plus по телефону 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500). (Russian)

MAHALAGA: Nababasa mo ba ito? Kung hindi, maaari kang bigyan ng Sutter Health Plus ng taong babasa para sa iyo. Maaari mo ding hilingin na isulat ito sa iyong wika. Para sa walang-gastos na tulong, mangyaring tumawag sa Sutter Health Plus Member Services sa. 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500). (Tagalog)

สำคัญ: คุณอ่านออกหรือไม่ ถ้าอ่านไม่ออก Sutter Health Plus สามารถให้คนมาช่วยคุณอ่านได้ นอกจากนี้ คุณยังสามารถขอรับเนื้อหานี้เป็นภาษาของคุณได้อีกด้วย หากต้องการความช่วยเหลือโดยไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย กรุณาโทรหา Sutter Health Plus Member Services ที่ 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500) (Thai)

QUAN TRỌNG: Qu. vị có thể đọc thông tin này không? Nếu không, Sutter Health Plus có thể yêu cầu ai đó đọc giúp cho qu. vị. Qu. vị cũng có thể nhận được thông tin này dưới dạng văn bản bằng ngôn ngữ của qu. vị. Để được hỗ trợ miễn phí, vui lòng gọi cho ban Dịch Vụ Thành Viên của Sutter Health Plus theo số 1-855-315-5800 (TTY 1-855-830-3500). (Vietnamese)