

L.A. Cares About Diabetes®

An education and support program for people with diabetes



My diabetes Care Team



If you have questions or need help, call your diabetes care team. Keep their phone numbers close by in case of emergency.

Important Phone Numbers

Me:	
My Doctor:	
My diabetes Educator:	
My Pharmacy:	
My L.A. Care Member Services: _	

Health Education Department

1.855.856.6943 (TTY 711) Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. or email: HealthEd_Info_Mailbox@lacare.org



L.A. Care Nurse Advice Line 1.800.249.3619 (TTY **711**)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



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Understanding Diabetes

Diabetes means there is too much sugar in the blood.

With diabetes your body has a hard time changing the food you eat into the energy you need. This causes too much sugar in the blood. If not managed, high blood sugar can slowly damage your heart, kidneys, eyes, and feet.

Although there is no cure for diabetes, you can manage it by:



Eating healthy



Staying active



Testing your blood sugar levels



Taking medication if needed



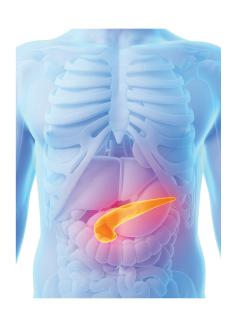
Seeing your doctor for needed exams

Types of diabetes

When you have diabetes, your body has problems making and using insulin. Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas. It helps move sugar, also called glucose, from the blood into the cells of the body. The cells are then able to use the sugar for energy.

Type 1: When you have Type 1 diabetes, your pancreas doesn't make insulin. You need to take insulin prescribed by a doctor several times each day.

Type 2: When you have Type 2 diabetes, your pancreas doesn't make enough insulin or your insulin does not work well enough. Over time your body makes less and less insulin. Many people with Type 2 diabetes will need to take insulin prescribed by a doctor at some point.



Do y	ou knov	v what ty	ype of	Diabete :	s you	have?
------	---------	-----------	--------	------------------	-------	-------

☐ Type 1 diabetes	☐ Type 2 diabetes
What questions do you	have about your type of diabetes?

Living Well: Eating Healthy

If you have diabetes, what and how much you eat has a big effect on your blood sugar.



- Eat 3 well balanced meals each day about 4 to 5 hours apart. Do not skip meals.
- **Eat about the same amount of food from meal to meal and day to day.**
- Pick whole grains most often. (All carbohydrates turn into sugar but some carbohydrates are better for you than others.)
- Eat more salads and vegetables.
- Be careful with the sweets and desserts. Regular soda and sports drinks have lots of carbohydrates in the form of sugar too.
- Olive or canola oil and avocado are good fat choices. Cut down on saturated and trans fats.
- ** Keep snacks close by to keep from getting too hungry and eating unhealthy foods.
- Use the plate method for diabetes to plan your meals.

Because sugar comes from the foods you eat, it is important to eat the right foods in the right amounts.

Diabetes Plate Method

The plate method for people living with diabetes is a way of planning each meal to make sure it's healthy and balanced.

Build a healthy plate for diabetes:

Think of your plate as having 4 equal sections.

- 1. Fill 2 sections (1/2) of your plate with vegetables.
- 2. Fill 1 section (1/4) of your plate with lean protein like fish, chicken or turkey.
- **3.** Fill 1 section (1/4) of your plate with carb foods. Choose whole grains to fill this section.
- **4.** Have one small serving of fresh fruit per meal. (Fruit juice is not a replacement for fruit.)
- 5. Have water or one cup of non-fat milk or unsweetened non-dairy milk like soy or almond milk with your meal rather than a sweetened or drink.



Know About Carbohydrate Foods

Carbohydrates (carbs) are foods that turn into sugar in your body. When you have diabetes it is important to know which foods have carbs. Sweets, starchy foods, fruits, and milk are carb foods. Fill 1/4 of your plate with a starchy food and have a fruit and milk to complete the carbs for your meal.



These foods have carbs:



STARCHES/GRAINS

Cereal

Oatmeal

Chips

Pasta

Crackers

Rice

Noodles

Tortillas

Bread



STARCHY VEGETABLES

Beans

Peas

Corn

Sweet potatoes

Potatoes

Yams



FRUITS

- Apple
- Strawberry
- Banana
- **Watermelon**
- Cantaloupe



MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

- Almond milk
- Soy milk
- **Milk**
- Yogurt



SWEETS

- Candy
- Honey
- Cakes
- Juice
- Dried fruits
- Sodas



Some drinks also have carbs. Have juices, fruit drinks, regular sodas, and sugar sweetened coffee or tea in moderation.

Alcohol can cause low blood sugar and should be limited. If you drink alcohol, ask your doctor or diabetes care team how to do so safely. It is recommended to keep alcoholic drinks to 1 drink a day. It is best to not to drink on an empty stomach.

Eat Enough of Non-Carb Foods

These foods have little or no carbs. They do not have a big effect on blood sugar. Fill 1/2 of your plate with vegetables and 1/4 with lean protein foods.





PROTEINS

- **:** Chicken
- **Egg** whites
- # Fish
- **Lean meat**
- Tempeh
- Tofu
- Turkey



MOST VEGETABLES

- Asparagus
- **::** Broccoli
 - Cauliflower
- Romaine lettuce
- Spinach
- Tomatoes

Use healthy fats to prepare your meals. Boil, bake, or barbecue food instead of frying.



HEALTHY FATS

Avocado

****** Nuts

Canola oil

: Olive oil

Flax seed oil

Peanut oil



NOT-SO-HEALTHY FATS

Butter

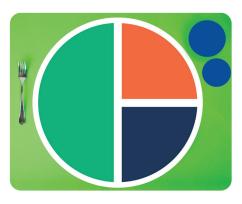
Some cheeses

:: Lard

Sour cream

Shortening

What foods would you choose to make a healthy plate?



Know the Right Amount

The good news is you don't have to cut out carb foods completely to manage diabetes. Eating a smaller portion size is what counts!

Too Much Right Size Orange Juice Orange Juice 4oz 12-16oz Whole 1/2 Banana banana Whole bagel 1/2 Bagel 4 tortillas 2 Tortillas 1 cup 1/3 cup Rice Rice French Whole grain bread roll bread 1 slice Small Large pizza slice pizza slice

6 Crackers

10 or more

crackers

Check how much you know

Please check all the foods that turn into sugar (carbs). Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.

		Yes, a Carbohydrate Food	Not a Carbohydrate Food
	Fish		
	Cereal		
	Corn		
	Avocado		
	Potato		
	Lettuce		
	Nuts		
Ū	Milk		
	Juice		
	Corn oil		

Living Well: Being Active

Living an active life can:

- Lower blood sugar levels
- Lower blood pressure
- Improve heart health

- # Help with weight loss
- Increase energy and strength
- Relieve stress

Here are some ways to add physical activity to your day.



Dancing



Mall Walking



Gardening



- Talk with your doctor before you start an exercise program.
- If you are not active now, start slow with about 10 minutes a day. Add a few minutes each day until you are active for about 30 minutes a day or 150 minutes a week.
- If you're new to exercising, walk around the block to get started.
- Do activities with a friend to make it more fun.

- Track what you do as a way to keep you motivated (see page 31).
- If you will be exercising more than usual:
 - Carry a fast sugar source with you. (See page 16 on how to treat low blood sugar.)
 - Check your blood sugar before and after exercise.
 If it's low, you may need a small snack.

Regular physical activity is important for managing diabetes.

What can you do to be more active?

Circle the activities you enjoy the most. It's best to do at least one activity from each column.

Aerobic



Swimming



Dancing/Zumba



Strengthening



Using Resistance Bands



Gardening



Free Weights

Stretching



Yoga



Simple stretching



Tai chi

How many times a week will you do those activities? _____

For how many minutes each time? _____



Losing weight can help manage diabetes. Losing just 10-15 pounds can make a difference in the amount of sugar that stays in your blood.

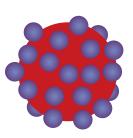
You can also take a free exercise class at one of our Family Resource Centers! We offer lots to choose from such as Zumba, yoga, and strength training. To find a Center near you, call 1.877.287.6290 (TTY 711).

Living Well: Knowing My **Blood Sugar Levels**

When you have diabetes, your blood sugar (glucose) levels tend to be high. Over time, this can damage your body and lead to other problems. This is why it's important to know your blood sugar levels.

Normal Blood Sugar Red Blood Cell Sugar

High Blood Sugar



There are two types of tests to measure your blood sugar. You need both of these tests.



The A1c test is a **lab test** that shows your **average blood sugar level** over the last 3 months. Know your A1c. It tells you and your doctor if your blood sugar has been close to normal or too high during the last 3 months.



A blood sugar (glucose) test measures your blood sugar at the time you test. You can do this test yourself using a meter and test strips. This test helps with daily choices to better manage diabetes. Know your target blood sugar numbers for when you are fasting, before meals, after meals, and at bedtime.

You **can** prevent complications and live well with diabetes.

For many people with diabetes, the A1c goal is less than 7. Lowering A1c levels by <u>any</u> amount improves your chances of staying healthy.

	Risk for Complications	A1c ↓	Blood Sugar
I feel GOOD	Low	Under 7	Under 150
I DO NOT feel good	High	Between 7 - 9	Between 150 - 210
I feel AWFUL	Very High	Over 9	Over 200

To lower blood sugar levels



- Eat healthy
- 2 Take your medications as directed
- Stay active
- Manage stress and anxiety
- See your doctor regularly

Ask your doctor about a good A1c goal for you.

Living Well: **Handling Blood Sugar Highs and Lows**

Low Blood Sugar (Hypoglycemia)

What causes low blood sugar?

- Missing a meal or eating later or less than normal
- Skipping your usual snack
- Taking too much diabetes medicine
- Doing more activity than usual
- Drinking alcohol

Signs of low blood sugar:

- Sweaty or clammy
- Shaky, lightheaded, dizzy
- Irritable, confused
- **#** Hungry



If you feel your blood sugar is too low or your blood sugar is 70 or less, drink or eat an emergency snack with 15 grams of simple sugar such as:

- 4 ounces of juice or regular (non-diet) soda
- 3 to 4 glucose tablets
- 1 tablespoon of sugar or jelly
- 5 small pieces of hard candy such as "Life Savers"

Wait 15 minutes and check your blood sugar. If it is still under 100 have another serving of the foods listed above.

- Don't treat low blood sugar with chocolate. It does not raise blood sugar fast enough.
- Carry your blood glucose meter and an emergency snack with you at all times.
- If you are not able to check your blood sugar but think it is low, treat it with an emergency snack.
- Eat your next meal as soon as possible.

It is normal for your blood sugar to change throughout the day. It's important that your blood sugar doesn't go too high or too low.

High Blood Sugar (Hyperglycemia)

What causes high blood sugar?

- Eating food high in carbs, which turns into sugar
- Not taking your diabetes medicine

- Not getting enough exercise
- Being sick or in pain
- Stress

Signs of high blood sugar:

- Very hungry and thirsty
- Headaches and fatigue
- Dry mouth, dry itchy skin
- **Blurred** vision
- Frequent need to urinate (pee a lot)



If your blood sugar is over 180:

- Drink extra water(2 extra 8 oz. glasses).
- Exercise go for a walk. Ask your doctor if it is okay to exercise when your blood sugar is high.
- Eat fewer foods with carbs at your next meal.
- Call your doctor if your blood sugar is over 250 after testing two or more times.

Talk with your doctor if your blood sugar is frequently too low or too high. Your diabetes medicine may need to be adjusted.

Managing **Medicines**

Taking medicine to control your blood sugar levels is normal. Most people with diabetes also need meds for other health problems, like high cholesterol or high blood pressure. It is very important to take your meds as directed by your doctor.

There are different types of diabetes medication. Each type works in its own way to control blood sugar.



There are 3 types of diabetes medications

- # Pills
- Non-insulin injections (shots)
- Insulin injections (shots)



Keep track of your medications

- Take your medicines at the right times.
- Fill a pill box with the medicines for the week.
- * Keep your medicines in the original bottles until you put them in the pill box.
- Take your medicines at the same time every day.
- Use a chart, calendar, or timer to help you remember.



Talk with your doctor about your medications

Use these tips to get ready for your next doctor visit:

- **W**rite down your questions.
- Keep a list of your medicines.
- **Write down any side effects of each medicine.**
- Bring all your medicines to each visit.

When do I take this medicine?	Medicine Name	How much should I take?
1		
Morning		
-6-		
Noon		
*		
Evening		
(IIIIIIII) R		
Only when I need it		



Bring your medicines with you to each visit. Your diabetes medicines may change over time.

Preventing Complications: **Your Feet**

Blood sugar above your target numbers can cause two problems with your feet over time:

Nerve damage

Decreased blood flow

Because of these problems, a sore, bruise or infection may take longer to heal and lead to other problems. If not treated, these problems can lead to amputation (loss of a limb). Smoking makes blood flow problems much worse.

3 Steps to take care of your feet

Step 1: Check

- Look at your feet each day. Check for sores, blisters, redness, calluses, or other problems.
 - ✓ Do not pick or peel the skin on your feet.
 - If you cannot check your feet by lifting them up, use a mirror or ask someone else to check your feet.





- Tell your doctor right away about any foot problems.
 - ✓ Have your doctor check your feet at each visit. Ask
 if you need to see a podiatrist (special foot doctor).

Foot problems is a common complication. Taking care of your feet each day helps find problems early, when something can be done about it.

Step 2: Clean

Wash your feet in warm water each day. Do not use hot water or soak your feet.

Dry your feet well, even between your toes.

If your skin is dry, rub lotion on your feet after you wash and dry them.

Do not put lotion between your toes.

File corns and calluses gently with an emery board.

Cut your toenails straight across. Do not cut into the corners.



Never walk barefoot. Always wear shoes or slippers, even when you are at home.

Always wear socks or panty hose.

Do not wear socks or stockings that are too tight below your knee.

Wear shoes that fit well. Shop for shoes at the end of the day when your feet are bigger. Break shoes in slowly.



Preventing Complications: Your Body and Diabetes

Use the table below to learn about common problems and what you can do.

Body Part	Problem	How does it feel	What you can do
Feet	Nerves to the feet and legs have been harmed	Tingling, numbness, burning sensation or pain	Have your doctor check your feetAlways wear shoes and socks
Legs	Poor blood flow	Leg cramps, foot ulcers and infections May lead to amputations	 Bring down your A1c, cholesterol, and blood pressure Lose weight If you smoke, quit See your doctor
Kidneys	Damaged blood vessels let protein out in the urine	You may not feel anything	 Keep your sugar and blood pressure well managed If the problem is severe, dialysis (machine to clean the blood) may be needed Talk with your doctor about a treatment plan
Liver	Fat build up	You may not feel anything	Lose weightTalk with your doctor about treatment plan
Stomach	Nerves that control digestion are harmed	Nausea, vomiting, slow digestion, diarrhea, and/or constipation	 Eat small meals Eat more foods with fiber Eat less high fat foods Stand or walk after eating Get a referral to a dietitian

Unmanaged diabetes can slowly affect your organs and cause complications.

Body Part	Problem	How does it feel	What can be done
Heart	Blocked arteries	You may not feel anything	 Keep your sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol well managed Eat heart-healthy foods Lose weight, if needed
Mouth	Gum infection	Gums may be red, swollen, or bleed	See your dentist regularly for cleaning
Eyes	Blocked vessels in the back of the eye (retina)	You may not notice anything Or you may notice black spots	☐ Get your eyes checked every year
Brain	Poor blood flow can cause stroke or part of the brain to fail	Weakness to one side of the body Problems speaking Loss of balance and severe headache	 Keep your sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol well managed Talk with your doctor about a prevention plan Stop smoking

You may need other tests or screenings if you are at high risk. Talk with your doctor about a prevention plan.

Preventing Complications: **Sick Days**





Being sick can make your blood sugar level go up very high. The best way to prevent a minor illness from becoming a major problem is to have a Sick-Day Action Plan for sick days.

When you're sick, your body is under physical stress. To deal with this stress, your body releases hormones that help fight the illness. These hormones have side effects. They raise blood sugar levels and do not let insulin work well.

When you're sick it is harder to keep your blood sugar in your target range even if you are not eating.

Make a Sick-Day Action Plan

Work with your doctor or diabetes educator to prepare your Sick-Day Action Plan. The plan should include the following:



- ☐ When to call your doctor or diabetes team
- ☐ How often to test your blood sugar
- ☐ Which medications to take, how much to take, and when to take them
- What and how to eat
- ☐ A log to keep track of temperature, medication, foods, and blood sugar levels
- A list of phone numbers for your doctor, diabetes educator, and dietitian. Include how to reach your doctor at night, on weekends, and on holidays

Call your diabetes team if:

You've been sick or have had a fever for a couple of days and aren't getting better



- ¥ You've been vomiting or having diarrhea for more than 6 hours
- Your blood sugar levels are higher than 240
- You have symptoms that might signal dehydration or other serious problem:
 - ✓ Chest pain

√ Fruity smelling breath

- √ Trouble breathing
- ✓ Dry, cracked lips or tongue
- ¥ You aren't sure what to do to take care of yourself

Important **Diabetes Exams**

Test	How Often	Date Completed
A1c Test	Every 3 months if A1c is over 7; Every 6 months if A1c is under 7	
Blood pressure	At every office visit	
Cholesterol and blood fats	Each year	
Dilated eye exam	Each year	
Kidney fuction (urine and blood test)	Each year	
Foot exam	Once a year by doctor; Daily self exam at home	
Dental exam of your gums and teeth	Every 6 months	
Weight	Every office visit	
Flu shot	Each year	
Pneumococcal vaccination	Ask your doctor if you need it	
Blood Sugar Test	As told by your doctor or at least once a day and before exercise	



You may also want to talk with your doctor about:

☐ Abuse and violence	☐ Family planning/ birth control	Prenatal health (for pregnant women)
☐ Advance directives☐ Aspirin	☐ How to quit smoking	☐ Physical activity/
☐ Asthma	☐ Your medication(s)	exercise Safety
☐ Bladder control	Mental health concerns (memory	☐ Sexually transmitted
☐ Dental health	loss or changes)	diseases and HIV
☐ Depression	☐ Nutrition	☐ Weight concerns
☐ Diabetes	☐ Pain management	Any other concerns
☐ Drug and	☐ Parenting	
alcohol problems	☐ Planning for long-term care	
☐ Fall prevention	. J	



For questions or to speak with someone about diabetes, call **L.A. Cares About Diabetes**® at **1.877.796.5878** (TTY **711**). You can also call the 24-hour **Nurse Advice Line** for free health care

advice at 1.800.249.3619 (TTY 711), 7 days a week.

My Action Plan

Now that you know more about managing diabetes, think of what you want to do to better take care of yourself.

What can I improve?

	What am I doing to feel like this?	What can I do to feel better?
I feel GOOD		
I DO NOT feel good		
I feel AWFUL		

How sure are you that you will reach your goal?

Please circle the number below. A 7 or higher means you are more likely to do it!.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1=not sure at all

10= completely sure







My Action Plan:		Activity	How long	When	How many days						
					S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Example	l will	Walk	30 minutes	After dinner		✓		✓		✓	
Goal 1	l will										
	l will										
Goal 2	l will										
	l will										
Goal 3	l will										
	l will										
Goal 4	l will										
	l will										



Did you know, as an L.A. Care member, you can get help with self-managing your diabetes in person by video conference or over the phone? Call our **Health Education** department at **1.855.856.6943** (TTY **711**).

Important Resources



Your Doctor

Your doctor is always there for you. Make and keep your doctor appointments. Keep your doctor's phone number handy.

My doctor's name is:	
Phone Number:	

Health Education Department

L.A. Care's *Health In Motion*™ offers free health workshops near you. Come make friends and learn about Diabetes and other health topics in a fun way! Call **1.855.856.6943** (TTY **711**).

L.A. Care Diabetes Educator

An L.A. Care Registered Dietitian or Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist can help you learn the skills needed for diabetes self-management. The diabetes educator can be reached by calling **1.855.856.6943** (TTY **711**).

L.A. Care Nurse Advice Line

Call the L.A. Care Nurse Advice Line for general health questions to keep you and your family healthy. You can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call **1.800.249.3619** (TTY **711**).

Online Education

You can also use My *Health In Motion*™, a free online platfrom for more informatin on diabetes. You will find a personal health report, wellness workshops, healthy recipes and much more! To log-in, go to lacare.org, click on "Member Sign-In" then click on the "My *Health In Motion*™" tab to start your profile.







Community Resource Center

RESOURCE CENTER LOCATIONS

NORTH REGION

- 1 Metro L.A.
- 2 Pacoima
- 3 Palmdale
- 4 The Westside

SOUTH REGION

- 5 Inglewood
- **6** Lynwood
- 7 Long Beach
- 8 Wilmington

EAST REGION ■

- 9 Boyle Heights
- 10 East L.A.11 Gateway Cities
- 12 Huntington Park
- 13 Pomona
- 14 El Monte
- ____



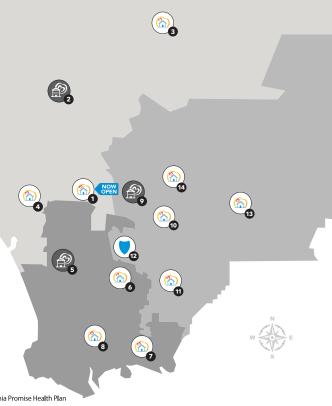


CRC Future Locations***



^{**}Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan Informational Resource Center

^{***}L.A. Care Health Plan and Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan
Community Resource Centers



Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan is an independent licensee of the Blue Shield Association



References

Medi-Cal

English

Free language assistance services are available. You can request interpreting or translation services, information in your language or in another format, or auxiliary aids and services. Call L.A. Care at **1.888.839.9909** (TTY **711**), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. The call is free.

Spanish

Los servicios de asistencia de idiomas están disponibles de forma gratuita. Puede solicitar servicios de traducción e interpretación, información en su idioma o en otro formato, o servicios o dispositivos auxiliares. Llame a L.A. Care al **1.888.839.9909** (TTY **711**), las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, incluso los días festivos. La llamada es gratuita.

Chinese

提供免費語言協助服務。您可申請口譯或翻譯服務,您使用之 語言版本或其他

格式的資訊,或輔助援助和服務。請致電 L.A. Care 電話 **1.888.839.9909** (TTY **711**),服務時間為每週7天,每天 **24** 小時(包含假日)。上述電話均為免費。

L.A. Care complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Cal MediConnect

English

ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **1.888.522.1298** (TTY: **711**), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. The call is free.

Spanish

ATENCIÓN: Si usted habla español, los servicios de asistencia con el idioma estarán disponibles para usted sin costo. Llame al **1.888.522.1298** (TTY: **711**), las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, incluso los días festivos. La llamada es gratuita.

Chinese

請注意:如果您說中文,您可免費獲得語言協助服務。請致電 1.888.522.1298 (TTY: 711),

服務時間為每週7天,每天24小時(包含假日)。這是免費 電話。

L.A. Care Cal MediConnect Plan (Medicare-Medicaid Plan) is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and Medi-Cal to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees.

References

PASC-SEIU

English

Free language assistance services are available. You can request interpreting or translation services, information in your language or in another format, or auxiliary aids and services. Call L.A. Care at **1.844.854.7272** (TTY **711**), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. The call is free.

Spanish

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Chinese

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L.A. Care Covered

English

Free language assistance services are available. You can request interpreting or translation services, information in your language or in another format, or auxiliary aids and services. Call L.A. Care at **1.855.270.2327** (TTY **711**), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. The call is free.

Spanish

Los servicios de asistencia de idiomas están disponibles de forma gratuita. Puede solicitar servicios de traducción e interpretación, información en su idioma o en otro formato, o servicios o dispositivos auxiliares. Llame a L.A. Care al **1.855.270.2327** (TTY **711**), las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, incluso los días festivos. La llamada es gratuita.

Chinese

提供免費語言協助服務。您可申請口譯或翻譯服務,您使用之 語言版本或其他

格式的資訊,或輔助援助和服務。請致電 L.A. Care 電話 **1.855.270.2327** (TTY **711**),服務時間為每週 7 天,每天 24 小時 (包含假日)。上述電話均為免費。

Notes:			

Notes:			



Health Education Department 1.855.856.6943 | (TTY 711) | lacare.org Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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