



# PROVIDER *bulletin*

December 17, 2019

Dear Provider:

DHCS wishes the managed care plans to share the following with the network providers. Below are the links to the articles. To view previous Educational Articles please go to the DHCS website at <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/edarticles.asp>.

The following has information concerning the new Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) guidelines.  
[http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/Articles/dured\\_30014.pdf](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/Articles/dured_30014.pdf)

The biggest takeaway from the new guidelines is this:

“In 2019, GINA undertook a comprehensive review of the risks and consequences of commencing asthma treatment with short-acting  $\beta$ 2-agonists (SABAs) alone and evaluated the impact on asthma exacerbations and deaths of any form of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) in mild asthma. The 2019 GINA report *Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention* concludes there is sufficient evidence to recommend that adults and adolescents with asthma should not be treated with SABAs alone. Instead, they should receive either symptom-driven (in mild asthma) or daily ICS-containing treatment in order to reduce risk of serious exacerbations and asthma-related death.”

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda, R.Ph.  
Director of Pharmacy