

Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Providers

From: Lily Yip, Pharm.D., APh, CDCES, BCACP, Director of Pharmacy Services

Re: **Medi-Cal Rx Pediatric Integration Implementation on Jan. 31, 2025**

Date: December 16, 2024

Beginning Jan. 31, 2025, Medi-Cal Rx will implement claim utilization management (UM) edits and prior authorization (PA) requirements for pediatric members 21 years of age and younger. This will include new start claims and continuation of therapy claims. Medications and products for pediatric members that have been processing without a PA may require a PA starting Jan. 31, 2025, based on the coverage status by Medi-Cal Rx. For more information on claims and PA request requirements, refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) and [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs & Covered Products List](#).

As Pediatric Integration implementation approaches, a detailed list of exclusions will be available on the [Medi-Cal Rx Approved National Drug Codes \(NDC\) List](#) (this document may automatically download to your computer.) The NDC list also identifies which medications will require PA. For more information regarding Pediatric Integration, navigate to the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) and select the Pediatric Integration tab.

Effective Jan. 31, 2025, prescribers may submit PA requests up to 100 days prior to the effective date of the prescription or prescription renewal, except in cases where the member is younger than 1 year of age. Due to potentially rapid changes in an infant's health status, PA requests for medications, enteral nutrition products, and medical supplies for children younger than 1 year of age should be submitted with the prescription.

Beginning Jan. 17, 2025, Medi-Cal Rx will host a weekly webinar about Pediatric Integration to support stakeholder readiness. Providers are encouraged to attend a webinar prior to implementation. Webinar information will be shared to GCHP's [Pharmacy Services Providers webpage](#) once it is made available by Medi-Cal Rx.

Additionally, Medi-Cal Rx will implement the California Children's Services (CCS) Panel Authority policy, in which CCS Panel Providers who are physicians or Certified Nurse Practitioners will have authority to prescribe for members 20 years of age and younger without submitting a PA for Medi-Cal Rx covered drugs and products, with some exceptions. Meaning, prescriptions submitted by CCS Panel Providers will be exempt from PA rejection at the pharmacy unless identified as an excluded medication / product, effective Jan. 31, 2025.

CCS Panel Provider Authority will include all drug classes with the following exceptions:

Numbered Letter (NL) drugs except those that are on the CDL and do not require a PA: Epidiolex, GnRH, and Blood factors	<p>High risk drugs using criteria such as: not recommended for use in pediatric population, or have a black box FDA safety warning, or are not considered first-line therapy, etc.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Sclerosis 2nd line treatment • Amyloidosis Agents • Anti-inflammatory Biologics • Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) inhibitors • Interleukin inhibitors (IL-1, IL-6, IL-17, IL-12/23, IL-36) • Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) • Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors
Opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines (except anticonvulsants) and sedative/hypnotics	
Medical Benefit drugs: Physician Administered Drugs (PADs), for example: Gene Therapy agents	
<p>Drugs that are excluded from coverage under Medi-Cal, but can be considered for coverage if medically necessary, such as drugs approved solely for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain. • To promote fertility. • Cosmetic purposes or hair growth. • Treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction 	

Note: Authority is within established use parameters. Other UM edits, including Quantity Limits, will apply.
CDL – Contract Drug List

CCS Panel Provider Authority - Enteral Nutrition and Medical Supplies:

Product	Included*	Excluded
Enteral Nutrition (EN)	Contracted EN products within the established daily calorie maximum.	Non-contracted EN products and EN products prescribed outside established use parameters.
Medical Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted Diabetic Test Strips and Lancets • Contracted COVID-19 Antigen Tests • Contracted Pen Needles and insulin syringes • Contracted Blood Pressure Monitoring Devices and Blood Pressure Cuffs • Contracted Glucometers, Control Solutions, Lancing Devices • Other Contracted Medical Supplies (alcohol prep pads, spacers, basal thermometers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued Glucose Monitoring Devices (contracted and non-contracted), Disposable Insulin Delivery Devices (contracted and non-contracted) • Non-contracted test strips, lancets, insulin syringes • Other non-contracted medical supplies

CCS Panel Provider Authority – Excluded Products

The following products are not covered by Medi-Cal, but will continue to be available through the CCS program. For operational reasons, these are excluded from the CCS Panel Provider Authority by Medi-Cal Rx:

- Common household remedies.

- Over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold drug products not on the [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List – Over-the-Counter Drugs and Cold / Cough Preparations](#).
- Non-legend (non-FDA approved) products.
- Medical supplies more broadly covered for CCS & Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP).
- Medical foods.
- Dietary supplements for CCS and GHPP.
- Vitamins and minerals not on the [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List – Over-the-Counter Drugs and Cold / Cough Preparations](#) or those used for Dietary supplementation.
- Amino acid products billed as Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) regimens or enteral powders.
- Thickener products.
- Compounds with non-FDA approved ingredients.

To verify CCS provider status, visit the [\(CCS\) Provider Paneling Portal](#).

Medi-Cal Rx Resources

- [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs & Covered Products List](#)
- [Five Ways to Submit a Prior Authorization Request](#)
- [Prior Authorization Submission Reminders](#)
- [Submitting a PA Request via the Medi-Cal Rx Secured Provider Portal YouTube video](#)
- Refer to the Covered Products Lists section in the [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) to review the List of Contracted Enteral Nutrition Products, List of Covered Medical Supplies and others.
- Refer to the Enteral Nutrition Products section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for additional information and criteria guidelines.

Contact Information

For any questions about a pharmacy claim, contact the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center, 1-800-977-2273, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year.

For questions related to the Medi-Cal Rx benefit, email MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com.

If you have any other questions, please contact GCHP's Pharmacy Services Department at Pharmacy@goldchp.org.