



### UPDATES INCLUDE:

- Medi-Cal Rx: Reinstatement of Prior Authorization for Select Drug Classes (Phase II Wave 2)
- Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement: Retirement of Transition Logic (Phase III)
- Removal of DATA-Waiver (X-Waiver) Requirement
- 2022 Immunization Update: Mpox, HepB, Influenza, COVID-19, Pneumococcal, Zoster

## Medi-Cal Rx: Reinstatement of Prior Authorization for Select Drug Classes (Phase II Wave 2)

Effective February 24, 2023, the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) reinstated prior authorization (PA) requirements for select drug classes for Medi-Cal Rx claims, for new starts only. Specifically, DHCS reinstated PA requirements for drug classes in the following table. Impacted drugs are now flagged (“P2W2”) on the Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC list on the [Forms & Information page](#) under Covered Products Lists.

Adrenergics	B Complex with Vitamin C	Laxatives
All Other Antiobesity Preps	Bile Therapy	Mineralocorticoids
Allergens	Bronchodilators	Oxytocics
Amphetamine Preparations	Chloramphenicol	Parasympathetic Agents
Anesthetics Gen Inhalant	CNS Stimulants	Psychostimulants- Antidepressant
Anesthetics Gen Inject	Coal Tar	Rauwolfias
Anticonvulsants	Cold and Cough Preparations	Sedative Barbiturate
Antidiarrheals	Contraceptives, Non-Systemic	Sedative Non-Barbiturate
Antidotes	Cough Preparations/Expectorants	Trimethoprim
Antihistamines	Diagnostics	Vaginal Cleansers
Antinauseants	Digestants	Vasodilators Peripheral
Antineoplastics	Emetics	Xanthine Derivatives
Antipruritics	Enzymes	Medical Supplies*
Antispasmodic and Anticholinergic Agents	Hematinics and Blood Cell Stimulators	Miscellaneous**
Antithyroid Preps	Hemorrhoidal Preparations	
Ataractics-Tranquilizers	Hemostatics	

\*\* All other drugs not otherwise listed, except enteral nutrition products

For additional details, see the [30-day notice](#) and [FAQ](#) for this reinstatement and other bulletins on the Medi-Cal Rx [Bulletins & News page](#). For further

## Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement: Retirement of Transition Logic (Phase III)

Starting March 24, 2023, Medi-Cal Rx will initiate Phase III of reinstatement by initiating the transition policy lifts. During Phase III, transition policy lifts will be made in a phased approach by standard therapeutic drug class and only impact members 22 years and older. Enteral nutrition is also exempt from Phase III. Medi-Cal Rx will communicate the impacted drug classes for each transition lift 30 days prior to implementation via news bulletin. Medi-Cal Rx is currently accepting PA requests for Phase III impacted drugs (following implementation of Phase II Wave 1 as of February 24, 2023). Drug classes impacted for the first lift of Phase III (P3/L1) on March 24 include:

Diuretics	Antilipemic Agents (including fish oil)	Hypoglycemics and Glucagon
Antihypertensives	Coronary Vasodilators (nitrates and pulmonary hypertension agents)	Cardiovascular Agents (antiarrhythmics and inotropes)
Anticoagulants and Antiplatelets	Niacin, Vitamin B, and Vitamin C Products	Opioids
Benzodiazepines		

For more information, see the [90-day](#) and [30-day](#) notices and [FAQ](#) for this reinstatement, [How to Prepare for Retirement of Transition Policy](#) for providers, and other bulletins on the Medi-Cal Rx [Bulletins & News page](#). For further information on the [Reinstatement Plan](#), please visit the DHCS Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement tab on the [Education & Outreach page](#).

## Removal of DATA-Waiver (X-Waiver) Requirement

On January 12, 2023, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) eliminated the DATA-Waiver Program. Effective immediately, waiver applications will no longer be accepted. All prescriptions for buprenorphine will now only require a standard DEA registration number. The previously used DATA-Waiver (also known as X-Waiver) registration numbers are no longer needed for any prescription. Any practitioner with a current DEA registration that includes Schedule III authority may now prescribe buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in their practice. There are no longer any limits on the number of patients a prescriber may treat for OUD with buprenorphine. New training requirements will go into effect on June 21, 2023, for all prescribers of controlled substances. More information on this announcement is available on this [DHCS bulletin](#).

## 2022 Immunization Update: Mpox, HepB, Influenza, COVID-19, Pneumococcal, Zoster

The California Medi-Cal Drug Use Review (DUR) program has issued their annual summary of updates on immunization guidelines, products, and research in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch. Highlights include:

- Vaccine providers can offer JYNNEOS (mpox vaccine) to any patients who may be at risk, and persons who request vaccination should receive it without having to attest to specific risk factors.
- ACIP now recommends HepB vaccination for all adults 19-59 years of age regardless of risk factors.
- Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age or older without contraindications.
- New for the 2022-2023 flu season, the following three flu vaccines are preferentially recommended for adults 65 years of age or older: quadrivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV4), quadrivalent recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV4), or quadrivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV4).
- All standard-dose unadjuvanted IIV4s are now approved for anyone six months of age or older.
- Children as young as 6 months are now eligible for their primary vaccination series against COVID-19.
- Currently, the CDC recommends one updated (bivalent) booster dose for everyone 5 years of age or older if it has been at least two months since the last dose and for children 6 months to 4 years of age who completed the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series and if it has been at least two months since their last dose.

Please do not hesitate to contact Provider Relations at **1(415) 547-7818** ext. **7084** or [Provider.Relations@sfhp.org](mailto:Provider.Relations@sfhp.org)  
To access updates from previous months or subscribe to SFHP's Monthly Provider Update, please visit our [Provider Update archive page](#).  
[Register for SFHP ProviderLink here](#).

© 2023 San Francisco Health Plan, All Rights Reserved.  
P.O. Box 194247, San Francisco, CA 94119-4247

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
[You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.](#)