

Medi-Cal Rx Transition

October 1, 2020

Medi-Cal Pharmacy Benefits (Medi-Cal Rx) will be administered through the Fee-For-Service (FFS) delivery system no earlier than April 1, 2021. The state goal in transitioning pharmacy services for Managed Care FFS is to standardize the Medi-Cal Rx benefit statewide under one delivery system and apply statewide utilization management protocols to all outpatient drugs.

Medi-Cal Rx will include all pharmacy services billed as a pharmacy claim, including but not limited to:

- Outpatient drugs (prescription and over-the counter), including Physician Administered Drugs (PADs)
- Enteral nutrition products
- Medical supplies

Medi-Cal Rx will not change the following:

- The scope of existing Medi-Cal pharmacy coverage.
- Provision of pharmacy services that are billed on medical or institutional claims and/or as part of a bundled/all-inclusive billing structure in an inpatient or long-term care (LTC) setting, including Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) and other Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF), regardless of delivery system.
- Existing Medi-Cal managed care pharmacy carve-outs (e.g., blood factor, HIV/AIDS drugs, antipsychotics, or drugs used to treat substance use disorder). For most Managed Care Plans (MCPs), these are already carved-out today – with a few limited exceptions .
- Any pharmacy services that are billed as a medical and/or institutional claim instead of a pharmacy claim.

Training and Education:

The state will be providing education to providers, pharmacies and prescribers. The Medi-Cal Rx website (<https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home>) updates their site consistently with new information and providers should visit it frequently. The website also has more detailed information on the program including an overview, the pharmacy transition policy and a provider-training schedule. **All Medi-Cal Rx providers, including pharmacies, prescribers and their staff will need to complete a registration process to access the Learning Management Systems (LMS), Saba, which is available now.**

Resources: For more information please visit -

DHCS - <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/provider/pharmacy-news> for updated news and bulletins.

Medi-Cal Rx Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/faq/>

Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal and Training Registration - <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/education/>