



Date: December 17, 2024

From: CenCal Health  
Pharmacy Services Department

Subject: Medi-Cal Rx Update - 60 Day Countdown: Pediatric Integration of Members 21 Years of Age and Younger

In March 2022, DHCS executed a temporary hold of prior authorization (PA) requirements and utilization management (UM) claim edits for Medi-Cal Rx to ensure members' timely access to pharmacy benefits. In July 2022, Medi-Cal Rx began a phased approach to reinstate PA requirements and UM claim edits for the adult population (members 22 years of age and older), which was completed in April 2024. Over the past year, DHCS has engaged the pediatric community, including key stakeholders representing the California Children's Services (CCS) program, to design the strategy for pediatric UM integration.

**On January 31, 2025, the Transition Policy will be retired and reinstatement of PA requirements and other claim UM edits for members 21 years of age and younger will apply to both new start and continuation of therapy claims.** For more information on claim and PA request requirements, refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#).

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 certain medications, enteral nutrition products, and medical supplies.

Prescriptions submitted by CCS Paneled Providers will be exempt from Reject Code 75 – Prior Authorization Required, unless identified as an excluded medication/product. Other UM edits, including Quantity Limits (QL), will apply.

The CCS Panel Authority policy will apply to medications and supplies on the Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List (CDL), as well as some non-CDL medications and supplies. This authority covers the PA requirement (Reject Code 75) and multiple flavors of enteral nutrition products dispensed in the same month (Reject Code 83 when submitted for enteral nutrition products) when the following conditions are met:

- The member is younger than 21 years of age.
- The prescription is written by the member's Physician or Certified Nurse Practitioner who has CCS Panel Authority.
- The claim denies with one of the following reject codes: – Reject Code 75 – Prior Authorization Required – Reject Code 83 – Duplicate Paid/Captured Claim (when submitted for enteral nutrition products).



Prescriptions written by providers not approved as CCS Panel Provider will be subject to prior authorization requirements. For non-paneled providers prior authorization requirements will apply for all pediatric members, ages 21 and younger, regardless of program enrollment for the member (Medi-Cal or CCS). **Non-paneled and paneled 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 children younger than 1 year of age should be submitted with the prescription.

As Pediatric Integration implementation approaches, a detailed list of exclusions will be available on the [Med-Cal Rx Approved NDC List](#). In the interim, pharmacy providers and prescribers can refer to the [Advancing Medi-Cal Rx: Pediatric Utilization Management \(UM\) Integration](#) slide deck for an overview of Medi-Cal Rx drugs and products that will be excluded from the CCS Panel Authority policy by navigating to the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) and selecting the **Pediatric Integration** tab.

Providers can also use the [Medi-Cal Rx Subscription Service Sign-Up](#) to receive direct notification of all new alerts that are posted. **Beginning January 17, 2025, Medi-Cal Rx will host a weekly webinar about Pediatric Integration to support stakeholder readiness. Pharmacy providers and prescribers should plan to attend a webinar prior to implementation on January 31, 2025.**

CenCal Health Pharmacy Services will provide monthly e-updates provided by Medi-Cal Rx to the CenCal Health provider network through go-live of the pediatric integration.

For any provider inquiries regarding Medi-Cal Rx, please call the CenCal Health Pharmacy Department at (805) 562-1080.

In Partnership,  
CenCal Health