



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

August 17, 2022

30-Day Countdown: Reinstatement of PA Requirements for 11 Drug Classes

Dear IEHP Pharmacy Provider,

On August 16, 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has posted an alert on the Reinstatement of Prior Authorization requirement for 11 Drug Classes, which will be effective September 16, 2022.

Please refer to the attached DHCS communications to see the affected Drug Classes and the advised Next Steps. Please remember to continue processing the pharmacy claims under Medi-Cal Rx (Magellan). Also upon reinstatement of PA requirement, please send the Prior Authorization to Medi-Cal Rx (Magellan).

Please note that this update applies to IEHP Medi-Cal Members only (and does not apply to IEHP DualChoice Cal MediConnect pharmacy claims).

If you have any questions on this update or other DHCS communications, please:

- Visit the Medi-Cal Rx Bulletins & News site at <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/provider/pharmacy-news/> or
- Contact Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- You can also submit questions via email to Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.

Sincerely,

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30-Day Countdown – Reinstatement of Prior Authorization Requirements for 11 Drug Classes

August 16, 2022

What is Happening?

On September 16, 2022, prior authorization (PA) requirements will be reinstated for 11 drug classes for new start medications for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older.

- New starts are defined as new therapies or medications not previously prescribed to the beneficiary during the 15-month lookback period. Claims data and PAs will be used to review for grandfathering.
- New start prescriptions for children and youth 21 years of age and under within these 11 drug classes will not be subject to PA reinstatement.

Note: Medi-Cal Rx product-specific coverage criteria for enteral nutrition products and medical supplies products have not changed or been waived. For prescriptions requiring a PA that do not have an approved PA (or a historical claim) on file, PA requirements will remain in place.

Phase I, Wave III Drug Classes

- Diuretics
- Antilipemic agents (including statins and omega-3 fatty acids)
- Hypoglycemics and glucagon
- Antihypertensives
- Coronary vasodilators (nitrates and pulmonary arterial hypertension agents)
- Cardiovascular agents (including antiarrhythmics and inotropes)
- Anticoagulants and antiplatelets
- Niacin, Vitamin B, and Vitamin C products

Note: For drug classes not listed above, the PA requirements will remain temporarily removed. Medi-Cal Rx will continue to utilize PA and claim data to allow grandfathering of previously approved PAs after July 2, 2022.

Prospective PAs that are requested prior to the transition policy being phased out for beneficiaries currently on a drug therapy and covered under the transition policy **will not** be accepted at this time.



- When prescribing a drug in one of these drug classes for a patient who has not been on the drug over the last 15 months, check the [Covered Products List](#).
- For beneficiaries already on a drug therapy for qualified drugs, the transition policy will continue to allow access to care.

Next Steps

- Assess business processes and workflows to account for the reinstatement of PA edits for the drug classes.
- Review the alert titled [Update: Implementation of Phase I, Wave III – Reinstatement of Prior Authorizations for 11 Drug Classes](#) posted July 26, 2022.
- Refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Bulletins & News](#) and [Medi-Cal Rx Forms & Information](#) pages of the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) for guidance to successfully submit PAs.
- Review PA policy updates in the [PA Reference Guide](#).

Questions?

For claims or PA assistance, you can call the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

For other questions, please email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.