

Medi-Cal Provider Enrollment – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Pursuant to *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 42, Section 455.410(b), and *Welfare and Institutions Code* (W&I Code), Section 14043.1(b) and (o), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is required to enroll Ordering, Referring, and Prescribing (ORP) providers in Medi-Cal.

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides guidance and clarification regarding Medi-Cal provider enrollment requirements.

1. What changes are taking place on June 26, 2026?

Beginning June 26, 2026, prescribers (such as doctors, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants) must be enrolled as individual, fee-for-service (FFS) providers in Medi-Cal using their Type 1 National Provider Identifier (NPI). This will be required in order for pharmacy providers to dispense medications to Medi-Cal members and receive paid claims under Medi-Cal Rx.

2. Whom will the policy impact?

This policy impacts all prescribers, as well as pharmacists initiating prescriptions under their own scope of practice authority, who have not enrolled as individual, FFS providers in Medi-Cal using their Type 1 NPI. Members will have downstream impact as the claim for their prescription will be denied when billed to the pharmacy provider, with no overrides available, for any prescriber that is not enrolled.

3. I am a prescriber; how can I verify my enrollment status?

Use the list of [Enrolled Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Providers](#) to check whether you are currently enrolled as a Medi-Cal FFS provider. Once on the page, scroll down to the search field on the right and enter your NPI to verify your Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment status.

- If your Type 1 NPI is found on the list, then your prescriber Medi-Cal FFS enrollment requirement has been met and no further action is required.
- If your Type 1 NPI is not found on the list, then you will need to submit a Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment application with the DHCS Provider Enrollment Division (PED) as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for processing and approval.

4. Can administrative staff (such as an office manager) submit Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment applications for one or more prescribers through the Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment (PAVE) Portal, or does each individual prescriber need to submit their own Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment application?

Administrative staff, such as an office manager, can prepare an application on the prescriber's behalf, but the prescriber must create their own unique username and password to access the Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment application in the [PAVE Portal](#) to review the information and to complete the Provider Agreement and signature. Signatures cannot be delegated to any other person.

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5. How is Medi-Cal Rx preparing pharmacy providers and prescribers for the upcoming policy changes?

DHCS has identified prescribers who have not enrolled with Medi-Cal and will be conducting proactive outreach to inform them of this requirement. DHCS will also be sharing information with and providing technical assistance to Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) so that they can inform their contracted network providers of this requirement since most prescribers are going to be affiliated with a Medi-Cal MCP. If a Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment application is not submitted and approved by June 26, 2026, pharmacy claims and prior authorizations (PAs) associated with the prescriber will be denied.

6. What is the typical processing time for Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment applications submitted to DHCS' PED through PAVE?

Physician applications will receive a response within 90 days; all other license types (such as nurse practitioner or physician assistant) will receive a response within 180 days. Applicants can view the real-time status of their application by viewing the application milestone in the [PAVE Portal](#). Applications are processed as quickly as possible in the order that they are received. Note that some applications may require additional information in order to be processed, which can result in processing delays.

7. Does being contracted with a Medi-Cal MCP or enrolled in the federal Medicare program satisfy Medi-Cal provider enrollment requirements?

No. Being contracted with a Medi-Cal MCP and/or enrolled as a provider with the federal Medicare program does not satisfy the requirements for California's Medi-Cal FFS provider enrollment. You must separately apply and be approved by DHCS PED.

8. Where can Medi-Cal members learn more about finding a prescriber who is enrolled in Medi-Cal?

There are different resources available depending on if the member is enrolled in Medi-Cal FFS or a Medi-Cal MCP.

Members enrolled in Medi-Cal FFS can refer to the following tools to locate a provider enrolled in Medi-Cal:

- [Enrolled Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Providers](#) list
- Fee-for-Service Providers tab on the [DHCS Medical Provider Finder](#) page
- Email DHCS' Benefits Division at Medi-Cal.Benefits@dhcs.ca.gov or contact their local [county social services office](#) for additional assistance or questions.

Members enrolled in a Medi-Cal MCP should contact their MCP for assistance. Members can locate their Plan contact information or the Ombudsman to assist at these websites:

- [Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Directory](#)
- [Medi-Cal Managed Care and Mental Health Office of the Ombudsman](#)

9. Where can I find more information about Medi-Cal provider enrollment for prescribers?

- DHCS' PED is responsible for the enrollment and re-enrollment of Medi-Cal FFS providers in Medi-Cal. The [PAVE Portal](#), which is accessible via the [Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment](#) page, is a web-based application designed to simplify enrollment processes. Providers can utilize the PAVE Portal to complete and submit applications, report changes to existing enrollments, and respond to PED-initiated requests for continued enrollment or revalidation. The PAVE Portal features secure login, document uploading, electronic signature, and application progress tracking.
- Answers to most enrollment questions can be found on the [Ordering/Referring/Prescribing Only Enrollment Information](#) page or the [Ordering, Referring, Prescribing \(ORP\) Enrollment](#) slide deck. Navigate to the [Provider Inquiry](#) form to submit additional questions.
- Visit the [Application Information by Provider Type](#) page on the DHCS website for more information about prescriber enrollment options (such as a Doctor of Medicine, ORP [Ordering/Referring/Prescribing] Only Enrollment, Nurse Practitioner, etc.) as well as each provider type's qualifications and requirements for application submission.

10. Where can I find more information about the upcoming changes to Medi-Cal provider enrollment requirements?

- Visit the Provider Enrollment Requirement tab on the [Education & Outreach](#) page.
- Refer to the *Enrolling as a Medi-Cal Pharmacy Provider* section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#).
- Refer to the [Ordering, Referring, Prescribing \(ORP\) Enrollment](#) slide deck.
- If necessary, submit an application via the [Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment](#) page.
- Navigate to the [Provider Inquiry](#) form to submit requests for assistance to DHCS' PED.