



Medi-Cal Rx Phase II and Preparing for Phase III Transition Policy Retirement – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Introduction

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides guidance and clarification regarding Medi-Cal Rx Phase II Reinstatement. Additionally, this document includes information to assist prescribers and pharmacy providers in preparing for retirement of the Transition Policy which will occur in Phase III starting March 24, 2023.

Phase II, Wave 1 General Information

1. When did the reinstatement of prior authorizations (PAs) for the Phase II, Wave 1 (P2/W1) 39 Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs) go live?

P2/W1 went into effect on January 20, 2023.

2. Which 39 Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs) were reinstated?

The following 39 STCs were reinstated during P2/W1:

All Other Dermatologicals	Corticotropins	Other Antibiotics
Anabolics	Emollients Protectives	Other Hormones
Androgens	Erythromycins	Penicillins
Anesthetic Local, Topical	Estrogens	Progesterone
Antiarthritics	Fat Soluble Vitamins	Streptomycins
Antifungals	Folic Acid Preparations	Sulfonamides
Antimalarials	General Antibacterials and Antiseptics	Systemic Contraceptives
Antiparasitics	Glucocorticoids	TB Preparations
Antiparkinson	Iodine Therapy	Tetracyclines
Anti-Ulcer Preps/ Gastrointestinal Preps	Multivitamins	Thyroid Preps
Antivirals	Muscle Relaxants	Topical Nasal and Otic Preparations
Biologicals	Non-Opioid Analgesics	Urinary Antibacterials
Cephalosporins	Ophthalmic Preparations	Vitamin K

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Phase II, Wave 2 General Information

3. What is happening during Phase II, Wave 2 (P2/W2)?

During P2/W2, the remaining Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs), with the exclusion of enteral nutrition products, will be reinstated for **new start** prescriptions for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older.

4. When will the reinstatement of prior authorizations (PAs) for Phase II, Wave 2 (P2/W2) 46 Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs) including medical supplies go live?

P2/W2 will go into effect on February 24, 2023.

5. What is being reinstated in Phase II, Wave 2 (P2/W2)?

The following 46 Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs), which includes medical supplies, are being reinstated during P2/W2:

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

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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	

* **Note:** Diabetic supplies, including testing supplies and insulin syringes, are included with Medical Supplies. Diabetic supplies also include Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Systems and Disposable Insulin Delivery Devices (DIDDs), both of which require an approved Medi-Cal Rx PA for a paid claim. For more information regarding Medi-Cal Rx coverage of Medical Supplies, refer to the *Medical Supplies* section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) and [Covered Products Lists](#) on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#).

** All other drugs not otherwise listed except for enteral nutrition products.

Phase II General Information

6. Where can I find more information about drugs that are impacted in Phase II?

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has leveraged the existing [Medi-Cal Rx Approved National Drug Code \(NDC\) List](#) to identify each drug that has a prior authorization (PA) requirement. The following abbreviations will be found alongside each drug to indicate whether the PA requirement status has been in effect since January 1, 2022, Assumption of Operations (AOO); P1/W3; P2/W1; P2/W2; or not in effect ("N/A"). This list will be updated monthly with the appropriate phase/wave until completion of the reinstatement process.

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7. Will the Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs) reinstated in Phase II require a prior authorization (PA) for beneficiaries currently on drug therapy?

No. Reinstatement of PAs for STCs impacted by Phase II will begin **only** for beneficiaries who are **starting a new drug therapy**. A “new-start” is defined as a new therapy or medication not previously prescribed to the beneficiary during the 15-month lookback period. Paid claims data and historical PAs will be used for grandfathering. However, the Transition Policy will begin retiring in Phase III of Reinstatement as announced in the [90-Day Countdown – Phase III: Retirement of the Transition Policy for Beneficiaries 22 Years of Age and Older](#). Pharmacy providers and prescribers are encouraged to plan ahead and take action as early as February 24, 2023, as announced in the [How to Prepare for Retirement of the Transition Policy](#).

Note: Beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger are exempt from Phase II, Wave 1 (P2/W1) and Phase II, Wave 2 (P2/W2) Reinstatement for new start therapies.

8. Does the reinstatement of Phase II affect California Children's Services (CCS)/ Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP) beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger?

No. Phase II, Wave 1 (P2/W1) and Phase II, Wave 2 (P2/W2) Reinstatement should not have any impact on beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger. However, coverage considerations for certain drugs/products may continue to require a prior authorization (PA) for CCS/GHPP beneficiaries.

9. Will the 14-day emergency override still be applicable during Phase II?

Yes. Products are available for emergency dispensing provided they are benefits of Medi-Cal Rx. Refer to the *Emergency Fills* section of the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for more information.

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Preparing for Phase III Transition Policy Retirement

10. What is Phase III Transition Policy Retirement?

As announced on December 20, 2022, in the [90-Day Countdown – Phase III: Retirement of the Transition Policy for Beneficiaries 22 Years of Age and Older](#), Medi-Cal Rx will begin phasing out the Transition Policy in a series of lifts beginning March 24, 2023.

11. What can pharmacy providers and prescribers do to prepare for Phase III Transition Policy Retirement?

On January 12, 2023, Medi-Cal Rx published [How to Prepare for Retirement of the Transition Policy](#). Pharmacy providers and prescribers should consider transitioning beneficiaries 22 years of age and older to covered alternatives that may not require a prior authorization (PA), or if a covered alternative is not appropriate, submit a PA to Medi-Cal Rx beginning February 24, 2023. This opportunity is for beneficiaries who are 22 years of age or older and have a claim that is currently paying due to the Medi-Cal Rx Transition Policy.

12. Where can I go to find covered alternative options that may not require a prior authorization (PA)?

Pharmacy providers and prescribers can review the [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs Lists](#), [Medi-Cal Rx Lists of Covered Products](#), and the [Medi-Cal Rx Approved National Drug Code \(NDC\) List](#). Prescribers may also refer to ePrescribing applications.

13. Are pharmacy providers and prescribers required to submit prior authorizations (PAs) early?

Although early submission of PAs is not required, Medi-Cal Rx is encouraging pharmacy providers and prescribers to plan ahead.

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14. Are there any exclusions to early prior authorization (PA) submission starting February 24, 2023?

Yes. Early submission of PA requests for *beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger or enteral nutrition products for beneficiaries of any age* will not be accepted starting February 24, 2023. These claims will continue to be covered under the Transition Policy beyond Phase III.

Reinstatement Resources

15. How can I learn more about Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement? Where will future phases and waves of Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement be announced?

In addition to the resources linked within this FAQ, Medi-Cal Rx offers a **Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement** web page, which is available by selecting [Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach](#) from the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#), and then selecting **Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement**. Medi-Cal Rx publishes a *Reinstatement Spotlight* every Friday to keep stakeholders informed. *Reinstatement Spotlights* are available on the [Medi-Cal Rx Bulletins & News](#) page, as well as the Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement tab on the [Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach](#) page.

Additionally, pharmacy providers and prescribers can stay up to date with all that is happening at Medi-Cal Rx by signing up for the [Medi-Cal Rx Subscription Service](#) to receive notification of future alerts.

16. How can I learn more about previously reinstated Phase I?

To learn more about previous phases/waves of reinstatement, Medi-Cal Rx offers the following FAQs:

- [Reinstatement Phase I, Wave I FAQ](#)
- [Reinstatement Phase I, Wave III FAQ](#)

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17. How can I obtain assistance with questions about Reinstatement and Medi-Cal Rx?

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.

Pharmacy providers and prescribers can also seek assistance via the Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach team by emailing

MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.

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