



# Reminder: Include ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes on Pharmacy Claims

January 12, 2026

## Background

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) uses *International Classification of Diseases – 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis codes, in conjunction with other information on pharmacy claims, to monitor trends in pharmacy utilization data and to identify opportunities for both policy improvements and additional utilization management (UM) controls.

Including ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes on pharmacy claims is a standard, clinical best practice and aligns with the American Pharmacists Association's position supporting submission of diagnosis codes to identify the indication for use of medications as ordered.

## What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

Effective mid-2026, ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s) will be required for pharmacy claim adjudication to better implement appropriate UM controls, including prior authorization (PA) requirements. This will help to ensure and promote clinical appropriateness, essential need, efficacy, member safety, and quality of care.

In recognition of the need for systems coordination, Medi-Cal Rx will engage in a robust education and outreach campaign to support stakeholder understanding and adoption. Over the course of the next few months, more detailed information will be provided, including the implementation plan and resources.

- » The Emergency Fill policy will remain in effect and will not be impacted by this requirement. For more information about the Emergency Fill policy, refer to the *Emergency Fills* section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#).

## What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

To prepare for this upcoming change and ensure clinical appropriateness and UM controls are in place, DHCS strongly encourages pharmacy providers and prescribers to complete the following actions:

- Prescribers should provide the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s) with the prescription to ensure pharmacy providers have access to the information and the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s) are documented in the member's electronic health record for auditing purposes.

- Pharmacy providers should immediately begin including ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s) on pharmacy claim submissions. Pharmacy providers may contact the prescriber if the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s) is not listed on the prescription.
  - » Medi-Cal Rx accepts up to five ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes on submitted pharmacy claims.

**Notes:**

- DHCS currently requires ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for a specific subset of drugs/products on the *Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drug List* (CDL). Refer to the [CDL](#) and the lists on the [Contract Drugs & Covered Products List](#) page for drug-specific requirements.
- Claims for drugs with Code I ICD-10-CM diagnosis code requirements for specific conditions are denied if the appropriate/required ICD-10-CM diagnosis code is not included.
- Some pharmacy point-of-sale (POS) software automatically populates ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes submitted on electronic prescriptions, but as a best practice, pharmacy providers and prescribers should verify this information is included with all claims.

## Contact Information

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, email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at [MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com](mailto:MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com).