



Reminder: Requirement for Provider Enrollment in Medi-Cal

January 23, 2026

Background

Pursuant to *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 42, Section 455.410(b), the "State Medicaid agency must require all ordering or referring physicians or other professionals providing services under the State Plan or waiver of the plan to be enrolled as participating providers." Additionally, pursuant to *Welfare and Institutions Code* (W&I Code), Section 14043.1(b) and (o), which was effective January 1, 2013, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is required to enroll Ordering, Referring and Prescribing (ORP) providers in Medi-Cal.

What Prescribers Need to Know

In order for pharmacy claims to be processed and paid, the **individual prescriber** (for example, doctors, nurses, etc.) on the claim must be enrolled in Medi-Cal using their Type 1 National Provider Identifier (NPI). This requirement also applies to pharmacists initiating prescriptions under their own scope of practice authority. DHCS will begin enforcing this requirement mid-2026 and will provide more detailed information when the effective date is confirmed.

- » **Affiliation with a managed care plan (MCP) and/or enrollment as a provider with the federal Medicare program is not sufficient to meet the requirements for Medi-Cal enrollment.**

DHCS has identified prescribers who have not enrolled with Medi-Cal and will be conducting outreach to remind them of this requirement. If a provider enrollment application is not submitted and approved by the date on which DHCS begins enforcing this requirement, pharmacy claims associated with the prescriber will be denied.

To ensure DHCS has sufficient time to process applications and validate Medi-Cal enrollment status prior to the date of enforcement, it is highly advised that prescribers who need to submit an application do so immediately via the [Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment](#) page.

Notes:

- Applications will be processed in the order received and will be returned if incomplete.
- Application submission alone will not satisfy the requirement for enrollment and may not be used as justification for a pharmacy claim denial override.

What Prescribers Need to Do

- Verify Medi-Cal provider enrollment status using the [*Enrolled Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Providers*](#) list on the [*California Health and Human Services Open Data Portal*](#).
 - If the Type 1 NPI **is found** on the *Enrolled Fee-for-Service (FFS) Providers* list, the prescriber Medi-Cal enrollment requirements have been met and no further action is required by the prescriber.
 - If the Type 1 NPI **is not found** on the *Enrolled Fee-for-Service (FFS) Providers* list, the prescriber will need to submit an application with the DHCS Provider Enrollment Division (PED) **as soon as possible** to allow for processing and approval.
- Visit the [*Application Information by Provider Type*](#) page on DHCS' website for more information about prescriber enrollment options (such as 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.
- Refer to the following resources for more information:
 - The *Enrolling as a Medi-Cal Pharmacy Provider* section in the [*Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual*](#)
 - [*Ordering, Referring, Prescribing \(ORP\) Enrollment*](#) slide deck
- If necessary, submit an application via the [*Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment*](#) page. Refer to the [*NPI Application Step-by-Step Guide*](#) for more information.
- Navigate to the [*Provider Inquiry*](#) form to submit requests for assistance to DHCS' PED.

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.