



Medi-Cal Rx

Reminder: Changes to Medi-Cal Rx, Effective January 1, 2026

February 12, 2026

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

As previously announced in the alert titled [Changes to Medi-Cal Rx, Effective January 1, 2026](#) and pursuant to the enacted [2025-26 State Budget](#), effective January 1, 2026, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has implemented the following Medi-Cal Rx policy updates:

Coverage Policies for Select OTC Products

Over-the-Counter (OTC) COVID-19 Antigen Tests

- OTC COVID-19 antigen tests require a prior authorization (PA) request for all members, which may be approved on a case-by-case basis for medical necessity, unless prescribed by a California Children's Services (CCS) Paneled Provider for members younger than 21 years of age.

Select OTC Products

Coverage policies for select OTC products for Medi-Cal members 21 years of age and older under Medi-Cal Rx have been updated. Refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List](#) (CDL) for more information.

- Multivitamin combination products are no longer covered.
- Certain single-ingredient vitamins and dry eye products require a PA request demonstrating medical necessity.
- First- and second-generation antihistamines coverage are restricted to generic formulations.
- Single-ingredient vitamins and antihistamines are restricted to a 90- to 100-day supply per fill for all Medi-Cal members 21 years of age and older.
- OTC prenatal vitamins are limited to use during pregnancy or lactation conditions for Medi-Cal members between 10 and 60 years of age. Additionally, claims for these items are restricted to a 90- to 100-day supply per fill for maintenance supplies. The initial fill is approvable for a 30-day supply to ensure the Medi-Cal member can tolerate the vitamin.

Continuing Care

Several drugs were removed from the Continuing Care policy and now require an approved PA demonstrating medical necessity. Refer to the [CDL](#) for more information.

- Chlorpromazine 25 mg/ml and 50 mg/2 ml ampules and vials
- Fluphenazine 2.5 mg/ml vial
- Haloperidol deconate 50 mg/ml and 100 mg/ml ampules
- Haloperidol lactate 5 mg/ml ampules, vials, and syringes
- Timolol 0.25% and 0.5% gel-solution

- Timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5% eye solution
- Bimatoprost 0.03% eye drops
- Adhansia XR (methylphenidate) 25 mg, 35 mg, 45 mg, 55 mg, 70 mg, and 85 mg capsules

Step Therapy

Medi-Cal Rx will continue to prefer the use of drugs/products listed on the CDL(s) on the [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page prior to considering approval of a drug/product requiring a PA request.

- Providers should consider prescribing covered therapies that may not require a PA.
- If a covered drug/product is not clinically appropriate, submit a PA request establishing medical necessity.
- Providers are required to include drugs/products tried and considered and the reason(s) why those drugs/products do not meet the needs of the member when submitting PA requests. Refer to the [Reminder: Establishing Medical Necessity](#) alert.

Continuation of therapy, which refers to when a member previously used or is currently using the drug/product, does not suffice as justification for approval. This change impacts all members regardless of eligibility, age, and specialty program enrollment.

GLP-1 Drugs

Medi-Cal Rx no longer covers any GLP-1 drugs for **weight loss** or **weight loss-related indications**.

- Wegovy®, Zepbound®, and Saxenda® have been removed from the [CDL](#), and claims will deny with **Reject Code 70 – Product/ Service Not Covered**. Limited exceptions apply.
- All other GLP-1 drugs remain covered only for type 2 diabetes or other allowable non-weight loss diagnoses, which must be **denoted** with the corresponding *International Classification of Diseases – 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis code. Claims submitted without an allowable ICD-10-CM diagnosis code will deny with **Reject Code 80 – Diagnosis Code Submitted Does Not Meet Drug Coverage Criteria**.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

- Review the [Budget Information](#) page on the DHCS website.
- Review the [California Budget 2025-26](#) website.
- Visit the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) and select the **State Budget Policy Updates** tab to review the following resources:
 - [Medi-Cal Rx State Budget Policy Updates – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
 - [GLP-1 Drugs – Medi-Cal Rx Members' Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
 - [Changes to GLP-1 Drug Coverage – Effective January 1, 2026](#) flyer
 - [GLP-1 Coverage Considerations](#) alert

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.