Medi-Cal Rx

30-Day Countdown: Retiring Historical Prior Authorizations

October 30, 2026

Background

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) previously enabled extended duration/multi-year prior authorizations (PAs) for up to five years for certain maintenance medications. In alignment with *California Code of Regulations* (CCR), Title 22, Section 51003(e), this policy will be retired, and Medi-Cal Rx will continue to utilize a lookback period for paid claims history of 100 days and up to a 12-month PA approval period. Certain PA requests may be considered for a longer approval length on a case-by-case basis, dependent on meeting medical necessity.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

Effective November 30, 2026, Medi-Cal Rx will deactivate historical PA approvals. This includes historical PA approvals from managed care plans (MCPs), Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS), and Children's Medical Services (CMS) Net which will no longer be valid outside the approval period or if paid claims history is greater than 100 days. Medi-Cal Rx claim and utilization management (UM) edits will apply for claims submitted with a date of service (DOS) on or after November 30, 2026. A PA request will need to be submitted establishing medical necessity.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

- Refer to the Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists page on the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal for information regarding drugs/products eligible for coverage under Medi-Cal Rx as a pharmacy benefit and Code I limitations.
- Consider prescribing alternate covered therapies that may not require a PA request, if clinically appropriate. Refer to the *Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List* on the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal.
- If a change in therapy is not appropriate, submit a PA request via one of the approved Medi-Cal Rx submission methods. Refer to the *Prior Authorization Submission Reminders* and *Reminder: Establishing Medical Necessity* alerts.
- Review PA resources by selecting the **Prior Authorization (PA)** tab on the Forms & Information page.

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.