



Now Active – Reinstatement of Limited Prior Authorization Requirements for 11 Drug Classes

September 16, 2022

What is Happening?

On September 16, 2022, prior authorization (PA) requirements were reinstated for 11 drug classes for new start medications for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older.

- “New start” is defined as either a new therapy or the first time the beneficiary has been prescribed the drug. Medi-Cal Rx will review claim date of service up to 15 months to determine if the beneficiary is new to therapy.
- New start prescriptions for children and youth 21 years of age and under within these 11 drug classes will not be subject to PA reinstatement.

Note: Medi-Cal Rx product-specific coverage criteria for enteral nutrition products and medical supplies products have not changed or been waived. For prescriptions requiring a PA that do not have an approved PA (or a historical claim) on file, PA requirements will remain in place.

Phase I, Wave III Drug Classes

- Diuretics
- Antilipemic agents (including statins and Omega-3 fatty acids)
- Hypoglycemics and glucagon
- Antihypertensives
- Coronary vasodilators (nitrates and pulmonary arterial hypertension agents)
- Cardiovascular agents (including antiarrhythmics and inotropes)
- Anticoagulants and antiplatelets
- Niacin, Vitamin B, and Vitamin C products

Note: For drug classes not listed above, the PA requirements will remain temporarily removed. Medi-Cal Rx will continue to utilize PA and claim data to allow grandfathering of previously approved PAs after July 2, 2022.

Prospective PAs that are requested prior to the transition policy being phased out for beneficiaries currently on a drug therapy and covered under the transition policy **will not** be accepted at this time.



- When prescribing a drug in one of these drug classes for a patient who has not been on the drug within the last 15 months, check the [Covered Products List](#).
- For beneficiaries already on a drug therapy for grandfathered drugs, the transition policy will continue to allow access to care.

Next Steps

- Assess business processes and workflows to account for the reinstatement of PA edits for the drug classes.
- Review the alert titled [Update: Implementation of Phase I, Wave III – Reinstatement of Prior Authorizations for 11 Drug Classes](#) posted July 26, 2022.
- Refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Bulletins & News](#) and [Medi-Cal Rx Forms & Information](#) pages of the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) for guidance to successfully submit PAs.
- Review PA policy updates in the [PA Reinstatement Reference Guide](#).

Contact Information

For claims or PA assistance, 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, please email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.