



Medi-Cal Rx

# 30-Day Countdown – Phase III, Lift 1: Retirement of the Transition Policy for Beneficiaries 22 Years of Age and Older

February 23, 2023

## What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

As announced in the alert titled [90-Day Countdown – Phase III: Retirement of the Transition Policy for Beneficiaries 22 Years of Age and Older](#), Medi-Cal Rx will initiate the first of a series of transition policy lifts for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older starting March 24, 2023.

A transition lift is the retirement or phasing out of the Transition Policy for identified Standard Therapeutic Classes (STCs) that “lifts” the override of **NCPDP Reject Code 75 – Prior Authorization Required**.

The following STCs will be impacted by the first transition lift of Phase III, beginning March 24, 2023:

Phase III, Lift 1 (P3/L1) Drug Classes *		
Diuretics (STC 79, 53)	Anti-Lipemic Agents (STC 65, 66)	Hypoglycemics (STC 58)
Antihypertensives (STC 71)	Coronary Vasodilators (STC 72)	Cardiovascular Agents (STC 76, 74)
Anticoagulants and Antiplatelets (STC 77)	Niacin, Vitamin B and Vitamin C (STC 81)	Opioids (STC 40)
		Benzodiazepines (HIC3: H20, H21, H22, H4A, H8G, H8K) **

\* STC refers to the Standard Therapeutic Classification number. Hierarchical Ingredient Code 3 (HIC3) refers to the Specific Therapeutic Classification per First DataBank (FDB).

\*\* Listed HIC3s fall within STCs 07, 47, and 48; other drugs within these STCs are not impacted by this transition lift. Refer to the P3L1 NDCs tab in the [Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List](#) for additional detail.

- » Beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger are exempt from the Phase III Transition Policy retirement.
- » Enteral nutrition products for beneficiaries of all ages are also exempt from Phase III Transition Policy retirement.

# What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

If a beneficiary is currently receiving a medication in the STCs that are impacted by P3/L1 as outlined in the table above, pharmacy providers and prescribers should prepare for the retirement of the Transition Policy in the following ways:

1. Consider covered therapies that may not require a prior authorization (PA), if clinically appropriate. Review the following:
  - [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs Lists & Covered Products Lists](#)
  - [Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List](#)
  - Prescribers: Refer to your ePrescribing application.
2. If a change in therapy is not appropriate, submit PA requests beginning February 24, 2023. PA requests can be submitted via the Medi-Cal Rx Submission Methods:
  - [CoverMyMeds®](#)
  - [Medi-Cal Rx Secured Provider Portal](#)
  - NCPDP P4 Transaction
  - Fax
  - U.S. Mail

## Resources

- For more information about Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement, visit the [Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) and select **Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement**.
- Review the [Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement of Prior Authorizations and Retirement of the Transition Policy: Phases II, III, and IV](#) slide deck.
- Review [Medi-Cal Rx Phased Reinstatement Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
- Review the [Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement Phase II and Preparation for Retirement of the Transition Policy](#) webinar recording.
- 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.

## 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@magellanhealth.com](mailto:MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com).