



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 [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 Phase II and Preparing for Phase III Transition Policy Retirement – 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.