

Discontinuation of the COVID-19 Uninsured Group Program

May 1, 2023

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

On February 9, 2023, the States received a 90-day notice from the Federal Government that the federal Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE) will end on May 11, 2023. Therefore, California's COVID-19 Uninsured Group (UIG) program will end on May 31, 2023.



- The COVID-19 UIG program ends May 31, 2023.
- The COVID-19 UIG Application Portal will be decommissioned effective June 1, 2023.

Access to the COVID-19 UIG Application Portal will be decommissioned effective June 1, 2023.

- Effective June 1, 2023, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will decommission the COVID-19 UIG Application Portal and will not accept new applications for the program.
- Qualified Providers (QPs) of the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) program, Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP), Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) program, or Child Health & Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) will not have access to the COVID-19 UIG Application Portal to process applications for the COVID-19 UIG program on or after June 1, 2023, even if those applications are seeking coverage for services received during the federal COVID-19 PHE. This means that applications for the COVID-19 UIG program submitted on or after June 1, 2023, will be denied.

- Individuals who received COVID-19 UIG program coverage during the federal COVID-19 PHE will not be able to request retroactive coverage on or after June 1, 2023, even if those retro applications are seeking coverage for services received during the federal COVID-19 PHE.
- Additionally, the COVID-19 UIG user guide will be decommissioned on June 1, 2023.

COVID-19 UIG beneficiaries can apply for ongoing coverage. Federal COVID-19 PHE is considered a qualifying life event, which provides individuals a special enrollment period (SEP) with Covered California. This SEP will extend to individuals discontinued from the COVID-19 UIG at the end of the federal COVID-19 PHE and will provide individuals 60 days from May 31, 2023, to apply for Covered California coverage. Individuals do not need an SEP to apply for Medi-Cal and may apply at any time.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

When the COVID-19 UIG program ends, Medi-Cal providers will still be able to bill for services provided to eligible beneficiaries while the program was in effect. Medi-Cal billing timelines and requirements will apply for services provided during the COVID-19 UIG program, but which are claimed after May 31, 2023. Refer to the *Filing Limitations* section of the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for more information on claim billing timelines.

For the most current information regarding Medi-Cal's COVID-19 response, see the [COVID-19 Medi-Cal Response](#) page on the Medi-Cal Providers website.

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.

Questions concerning the discontinuation of the COVID-19 UIG program should be sent to COVID19Apps@dhcs.ca.gov.