



Medi-Cal Rx

# Medical Foods Are Not a Covered Benefit

January 2, 2024

The purpose of this communication is to inform stakeholders that medical foods do not meet the definition of Covered Outpatient Drugs according to Section 1927(d)(2) of the Social Security Act §1927. Medical foods are not treated as prescribed drugs and are not a covered Medi-Cal benefit. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) considers semi-solid, solid, pureed specialty food items, and oral supplements as medical foods.

Effective on and after January 1, 2024, pharmacy claims for medical foods will no longer be reimbursed by Medi-Cal Rx, except for the following special populations with an approved prior authorization (PA) request:

- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- California Children's Services (CCS)
- Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP)

Enteral nutrition formula is, and will remain, a covered Medi-Cal Rx benefit, restricted to coverage criteria, PA requests, and the [List of Contracted Enteral Nutrition Products](#). Refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for specific enteral nutrition formula coverage information.

## Resources

- [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment](#)
- [CCS Program Overview](#)
- [DHCS Provider Manual](#)
- [Women, Infants & Children Program](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List](#)
- For information about prescription covered products and program coverage, refer to the *Contract Drugs List (CDL)* section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#).

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