



Medi-Cal Rx

60-Day Countdown: Pediatric Integration of Members 21 Years of Age and Younger

November 27, 2024

Background

On October 31, 2024, Medi-Cal Rx published the [90-Day Countdown: Pediatric Integration of Members 21 Years of Age and Younger](#) alert to announce the implementation of Pediatric Integration on January 31, 2025.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

Pediatric Integration will implement claim utilization management (UM) edits and prior authorization (PA) requirements for members 21 years of age and younger. For a detailed list of claim UM edit requirements, refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#).

On January 31, 2025, the Transition Policy will be retired and reinstatement of PA requirements and other claim UM edits for members 21 years of age and younger will apply to both new start and continuation of therapy claims.

Additionally, Medi-Cal Rx will implement the California Children's Services (CCS) Panel Authority policy in which CCS Panel Providers who are physicians or Certified Nurse Practitioners will have authority to prescribe for members 20 years of age and younger without submitting a PA for Medi-Cal Rx covered drugs and products, with some exceptions.

Note: During adult reinstatement, a temporary additional grace year was added to the UM edits for the pediatric population for members 21 years of age. The defined pediatric population for CCS and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is younger than 21 years of age.

Prescriptions submitted by CCS Paneled Providers will be exempt from Reject Code 75 – Prior Authorization Required, unless identified as an excluded medication/product. Other UM edits, including Quantity Limits (QL), will apply.

The CCS Panel Authority policy will apply to medications and supplies on the *Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List* (CDL), as well as some non-CDL medications and supplies. This authority covers the PA requirement (**Reject Code 75**) and multiple flavors of enteral nutrition products dispensed in the same month (**Reject Code 83** when submitted for enteral nutrition products) when the following conditions are met:

- The member is younger than 21 years of age.
- The prescription is written by the member's Physician or Certified Nurse Practitioner who has CCS Panel Authority.
- The claim denies with one of the following reject codes:
 - Reject Code 75 – Prior Authorization Required
 - Reject Code 83 – Duplicate Paid/Captured Claim (when submitted for enteral nutrition products)

Effective January 31, 2025, non-paneled prescribers may submit PA requests up to 100 days prior to the effective date of the prescription or prescription renewal, except in cases where the member is younger than 1 year of age. Due to potentially rapid changes in an infant's health status, PA requests for medications, enteral nutrition products, and medical supplies for children younger than 1 year of age should be submitted with the prescription.

As Pediatric Integration implementation approaches, a detailed list of exclusions will be available on the [Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List](#). In the interim, pharmacy providers and prescribers can refer to the [Advancing Medi-Cal Rx: Pediatric Utilization Management \(UM\) Integration](#) slide deck for an overview of Medi-Cal Rx drugs and products that will be excluded from the CCS Panel Authority policy by navigating to the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) and selecting the **Pediatric Integration** tab.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

- Refer to the Pediatric Integration tab on the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) for Pediatric Integration-focused resources, including information about upcoming webinars.
- For questions regarding how to become a CCS Paneled Provider, contact the Integrated Systems of Care Division (ISCD) at ProviderPaneling@dhcs.ca.gov or 1-916-552-9105.

Medi-Cal Rx Resources

Pharmacy providers and prescribers are encouraged to review the following resources to learn more about Medi-Cal Rx and Pediatric Integration.

- [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Billing Tips](#)
- [Claim Submission Reminders](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Web Claims Submission User Guide](#)
- [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx CDL and Approved NDC List Navigation](#) YouTube video
- [Five Ways to Submit a Prior Authorization Request](#)

- [Member Eligibility Lookup Tool Job Aid](#)
- [Prior Authorization Submission Reminders](#)
- [Submitting a Prior Authorization \(PA\) Request via the Medi-Cal Rx Secured Provider Portal](#)
YouTube video
- [How to Resolve Reject Code 16 – M/I Prescription/Service Reference Number](#)
- [How to Resolve Reject Code 76 – Plan Limitations Exceeded](#)
- [How to Resolve Claim Reject Code 78: Cost Exceeds Maximum](#)
- [NCPDP Reject Code 83 – Duplicate Paid/Captured Claim](#)

CCS Paneled Providers

- [California Children’s Services](#)
- [Becoming a California Children’s Services Provider](#)
- CCS Panel Application on the [California Children’s Services \(CCS\) Provider Paneling Portal](#)
- [California Children’s Services Provider Lists](#)
- [California Children’s Services \(CCS\) – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [California Children’s Services \(CCS\) Program and Genetically Handicapped Persons Program \(GHPP\)](#) section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#)

Enteral Nutrition and Medical Supplies

- Refer to the Covered Products Lists section on the [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) to review the [List of Contracted Enteral Nutrition Products](#).
- Refer to the [Enteral Nutrition Products](#) section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#) for additional information and criteria guidelines.
- Refer to the [Bulletins & News](#) and [Forms & Information](#) pages on the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal](#) for guidance to successfully submit PA requests.

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.