



Medi-Cal Rx

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

December 31, 2024; Updated January 10, 2025

Background

Medi-Cal Rx previously announced the implementation of claim utilization management (UM) edits and prior authorization (PA) requirements for members 21 years of age and younger effective January 31, 2025, which is known as Pediatric Integration.

Effective January 31, 2025, only new start pharmacy claims for members 21 years of age and younger will be subject to Reject Code 75 – Prior Authorization Required. Based on stakeholder feedback, continuation of therapy claims will not be subject to Reject Code 75 for a period of no less than 60 days. Continuation of therapy claims will still be subject to all other Medi-Cal Rx claim UM edits (such as those related to frequency and quantity limits), which may require a PA to establish medical necessity.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

Effective January 31, 2025, Medi-Cal Rx will implement claim UM edits and PA requirements for members 21 years of age and younger for new start drugs/products. Continuation of therapy claims will not deny with Reject Code 75, but will be subject to all other claim UM edits, as noted above.

Notes:

- “New starts” are defined as new to therapy or absence of paid claims in the past 15 months prior to the current claim’s date of service (DOS).
- Beginning January 31, 2025, pharmacy providers and prescribers can submit PA requests up to 100 days in advance of new start therapy or PA expiration for members 1 year of age and older.
 - Due to potential rapid changes in an infant’s health status, PA requests for children younger than 1 year of age should be submitted with the prescription.
- Approved PAs will remain active through their length of authorization.

Effective January 31, 2025, Medi-Cal Rx will also implement the California Children's Services (CCS) Panel Authority policy for CCS Panel Providers who are physicians or certified nurse practitioners and enrolled in Medi-Cal. CCS Panel Authority enables CCS Panel Providers to prescribe for members 20 years of age and younger without submitting a PA request for Medi-Cal Rx covered drugs/products, with some exceptions.

CCS Panel Authority covers the PA requirement when all of 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 (some exceptions apply)
 - Reject Code 83 – Duplicate Paid/Captured Claim (when submitted for enteral nutrition products)

Prescriptions written by providers that do not meet the CCS Panel Authority policy requirements or by providers without CCS Panel Authority will be subject to PA requirements.

CCS Panel Authority Exceptions

Some examples of excluded drugs/products that will require additional documentation include, but are not limited to:

- Opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines (except anticonvulsants), and sedative/hypnotics.
- High-risk drugs using criteria such as, but not limited to:
 - Not approved for use in the pediatric population and not considered standard of care in the community; **OR**
 - Black box U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) safety warning; **OR**
 - Not considered first-line therapy.
- Noncontracted enteral nutrition products and enteral nutrition products prescribed outside published clinical criteria.

A detailed list of products included or excluded (by NDC) from the CCS Panel Authority policy will be available in the [Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List](#) the week of January 27, 2025, and updated monthly thereafter. 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

Pharmacy providers and prescribers are encouraged to complete the following actions prior to the implementation of Pediatric Integration on January 31, 2025:

- Review the [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#) for information regarding drugs/products eligible for coverage under Medi-Cal Rx as a pharmacy benefit.
 - **Note:** The [Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List](#) will be updated the week of January 27, 2025, to reflect which drugs/products are included or excluded (by NDC) from the CCS Panel Authority policy.
- Review PA resources located on the [Forms & Information](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal](#) by selecting the **Prior Authorization (PA)** tab.
- Review the [Pediatric Integration Question & Answer \(Q&A\) Document](#) located on the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) website.
- Review the *Medi-Cal Rx Pediatric Integration – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*, which will be available prior to implementation, on the Pediatric Integration tab located on the [Education & Outreach](#) page and the [FAQ](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#).
- Refer to the following CCS Panel Authority resources and the [California Children's Services](#) page to determine if a provider has CCS Panel Authority and/or submit an application to become a CCS Panel Authority Provider via the [California Children's Services \(CCS\) Provider Paneling Portal](#).
- Attend one of the upcoming weekly webinars hosted by Medi-Cal Rx beginning Friday, January 17, 2025. When available, the link can be found on the Pediatric Integration tab located on the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#).
- Schedule a 1-on-1 Office Hour with the Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach (E&O) team for individualized support by emailing a request to MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com.

Medi-Cal Rx Resources

- Pediatric Integration tab on the [Education & Outreach](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#)
- [Advancing Medi-Cal Rx: Pediatric Utilization Management \(UM\) Integration](#) slide deck
- [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#)
- [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx CDL and Approved NDC List Navigation](#) YouTube video
- [Medi-Cal Rx Billing Tips](#)
- [Claim Submission Reminders](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Web Claims Submission User Guide](#)
- [Prior Authorization Submission Reminders](#)
- [Five Ways to Submit a Prior Authorization Request](#)
- [Submitting a Prior Authorization \(PA\) Request via the Medi-Cal Rx Secured Provider Portal](#) YouTube video

- [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](#)
- [Member Eligibility Lookup Tool Job Aid](#)

CCS Paneled Providers Resources

- [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](#)
- 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.

Enteral Nutrition and Medical Supplies Resources

- [List of Contracted Enteral Nutrition Products](#) on the [Contract Drugs & Covered Products Lists](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#)
- The *Enteral Nutrition Products* section in the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#)
- The [Bulletins & News](#) and [Forms & Information](#) pages on the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal](#)

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 E&O at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@primetherapeutics.com.