

PROVIDER UPDATE #20-023

12/08/2020

PROVIDER TYPE: Primary Care Providers Specialty Care Providers
LINE OF BUSINESS: Seaside Select Plan to Plan

Subject: State-run pharmacy benefit program, Medi-Cal Rx, begins April 1, 2021

Please note that the implementation date has been delayed by the DHCS from January 1, 2021 to April 1, 2021

Dear Physician and Staff:

Effective April 1, 2021, Medi-Cal pharmacy benefits will be transitioned from managed care plans to a state-run program called "Medi-Cal Rx." The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will administer the program through their vendor, Magellan Rx.

The following pharmacy benefits will be "carved out" of Medi-Cal Managed Care to be administered instead by Medi-Cal Rx: covered outpatient drugs, including select physician administered drugs, enteral nutrition products and some medical supplies.

What should I do?

Start by visiting the new DHCS [Medi-Cal Rx website](#) to review general information about the transition and to access registration and training for the new Medi-Cal Rx Portal. The Medi-Cal Rx site serves as a platform to educate and communicate available resources, information, and changes to interested parties. Educational content and frequently asked questions (FAQs) will be posted and updated regularly. Medi-Cal providers (including, but not limited to, pharmacies and prescribing physicians) will need to register to have access to a secure provider portal in addition to the public Medi-Cal Rx website. To register, click on the "Secured portal access" option on the top right of the homepage, choose "Provider Portal" and then click on the "Register" icon. Once the registration process is completed, secure access will be available via the Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal on April 1, 2021.

The goals of Medi-Cal Rx are to:

- Standardize the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit statewide, under one delivery system
- Improve access to pharmacy services
- Apply statewide utilization management protocols to all outpatient drugs
- Strengthen California's ability to negotiate state supplemental drug rebates with drug manufacturers.

What changes should members and providers expect?

- Beginning April 1, 2021, Medi-Cal Managed Care members may need to present their **Benefits Identification Card** (BIC) to access pharmacy benefits, rather than using their plan member ID card.
- Existing prior authorizations and prescriptions will be honored by Medi-Cal Rx for up to 180 days.
- Information about the formulary, prior authorization, and claims processing can be found on the Medi-Cal Rx website, at <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov>.
- Pharmacy benefit complaints, appeals and grievances should be directed to Medi-Cal Rx.

For more information about the transition to Medi-Cal Rx, visit <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/pharmacy/Pages/Medi-CalRX.aspx>.

For general questions related to Medi-Cal Rx, please send an email to RxCarveOut@dhcs.ca.gov.

MemorialCare Select Health Plan is committed to supporting our providers through this pharmacy benefit transition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at mkroeger@memorialcare.org or at (562)933-1716.

Sincerely,



Executive Director of Managed Care
MemorialCare Select Health Plan