

PROVIDER UPDATE #20-020

11/06/2020

PROVIDER TYPE:

Primary Care Providers

Specialty Care Providers

LINE OF BUSINESS:

MemorialCare Select

Plan to Plan

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

Dear Physician and Staff:

Effective January 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 January 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 January 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



Medi-Cal Rx Prescriber Communication

October 21, 2020

What is Medi-Cal Rx and when does it happen?

Medi-Cal Rx is the transition of all administrative services related to Medi-Cal pharmacy benefits billed on pharmacy claims from the existing intermediaries to the new Medi-Cal Rx vendor, Magellan Medicaid Administration, Inc. (MMA). Medi-Cal Rx goes into effect January 1, 2021 and will include all pharmacy services billed as a pharmacy claim, including but not limited to, outpatient drugs (prescription and over-the counter), Physician Administered Drugs (PADs), enteral nutrition products, and medical supplies.

How does it affect prescribers?

As a prescribing Medi-Cal Provider, [registration for the Medi-Cal Rx portal](#) will be required to access pharmacy services tools for Prior Authorizations, pharmacy claim submissions and status updates. The systems currently used to submit Prior Authorizations for prescriptions and pharmacy claim submission will change. As of January 1st, 2021, Medi-Cal prescribers will use the secure [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal](#) to perform multiple functions related to the submission of PA requests, including, but not limited to, the following: PA submission, status inquires, cancellation, and adding additional information or documents to “In Progress” requests. The transition to Medi-Cal Rx will also include an updated Contract Drug List (CDL) that you will need to get familiar with.

What should I do?

Start by visiting the new [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. Additionally, a [Medi-Cal Rx Subscription Service \(MCRxSS\)](#) is available so interested parties can sign up and receive regular Medi-Cal Rx updates by email.

Next, get familiar with the CDL by visiting <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/faq> and clicking on the “Policy Considerations” link on the left side of the page. The current CDL can be viewed in the Medi-Cal website under [Provider Manuals](#). Starting on January 1, 2021, the CDL will be available on the [Medi-Cal Rx website](#).

Lastly, 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 is available via the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal](#) and on January 1, 2021 will include the following functionalities:

- Beneficiary Eligibility Lookup
- Web Claims Submission
- Prior Authorization Submission and Inquiry
- Learning Management System
- Secure Message Center
- Secure Chat

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) strongly encourages the Medi-Cal prescriber community to closely monitor upcoming Medi-Cal Rx news and bulletins for additional information regarding any future updates.