

DHCS All Plan Letter Summary

To: Medi-Cal network participants

April 2026

Subject: All Plan Letter 25-013: Medi-Cal Rx Pharmacy Benefits, and Cell and Gene Therapy Coverage

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 25-013](#), "Medi-Cal Rx Pharmacy Benefits, and Cell and Gene Therapy Coverage." We are sharing a summary of this APL with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

APL 25-013 offers guidance to managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan on the oversight and administration of the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit, known as "Medi-Cal Rx." It also includes information about the Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model.

CGT information

- Two CGT sickle cell disease medications that were formerly Physician Administered Drugs (PADs) are going to be carved out from managed care coverage and no longer included in capitation payments:
 - Effective July 1, 2025, LYFGENIA will be carved out.
 - Effective October 1, 2025, CASGEVY will be carved out.
- CGT sickle cell disease medications are not subject to utilization management or prior authorization. Because they are carved out of managed care, members obtain these medications on a fee-for-service basis. MCPs are advised to support members receiving CGT treatments through care coordination, referrals, and associated medical and non-medical services, including transportation.

General APL summary

- The APL states which pharmacy benefits are covered by Medi-Cal Rx when billed by a pharmacy provider on a pharmacy claim, including covered outpatient drugs, specific disposable medical supplies, and enteral nutritional products.
- MCPs are reminded of their responsibility to cover specific Physician Administered Drugs (PADs).
- Medi-Cal Rx will cover an emergency fill by a pharmacy not enrolled in Medi-Cal Rx for a 14-day supply of a member's medication, which can be repeated once.
- APL 25-013 includes a table summarizing Medi-Cal Rx roles and responsibilities for DHCS, Prime, and MCPs. It also includes a table summarizing related APLs.
- Requirements for MCPs include:
 - Reporting on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measures with a pharmacy benefit
 - Sharing daily data feeds with network providers and subcontractors
 - Working with DHCS to manage designated user access to the Medi-Cal Rx secure portal and clinical liaisons

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- Retrospective drug utilization review (DUR), an annual DUR report, and Medi-Cal DUR board participation
- Educational outreach
- Attendance at DHCS pharmacy committee meetings and pharmacy directors' meetings
- The APL explains measures to limit opioid misuse.
- APL 25-013 also addresses member complaints, grievances, and appeals, along with provider appeals.

Medi-Cal Rx policy resources

- [Medi-Cal Rx website](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx FAQs](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx CDL and Medical Supplies Covered Lists](#) (click Covered Products Lists)

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of APL 25-013 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL%202025/APL25-013.pdf>

(Links to the websites above will take you off the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about the topics covered in this APL, please call our Provider Customer Service team at **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.