



Medi-Cal Rx Lengthens Transition Time to Full Implementation – Go-Live on April 1, 2021

November 16, 2020

Given the ongoing challenges and constantly evolving health care landscape associated with the unprecedented COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in partnership and collaboration with Magellan Medicaid Administration, Inc. (Magellan), has decided to lengthen the time for the full implementation of the transition to Medi-Cal Rx by three (3) months. DHCS and Magellan will continue to dedicate their combined efforts and rigorous preparations toward Assumption of Operations (AOO) for Medi-Cal Rx on April 1, 2021. In the interim, all current processes and protocols, both effectuated by DHCS and by our Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs), respectively, will remain unchanged and in place until Medi-Cal Rx launches.

While neither DHCS nor Magellan takes this decision lightly, we are confident that given the COVID-19 PHE, this decision is in the best interests of our Medi-Cal beneficiaries and providers. Lengthening the time for full implementation will help to ensure a more complete transition, as well as mitigate impacts to beneficiaries in accessing their medication. Moving the launch of Medi-Cal Rx to April 1, 2021, will provide additional and valuable opportunities for Medi-Cal providers, beneficiaries, MCPs, and other interested parties to become better acclimated to and familiar with new Medi-Cal Rx policies and processes through additional messaging from DHCS and Magellan, additional targeted stakeholder engagement and outreach efforts, and additional provider trainings.

Please note that DHCS will be working to update applicable provider guidance and associated Medi-Cal Rx provider bulletins/Newsflash articles in the coming weeks to reflect the April 1, 2021 go-live date. With the exception of the three-month shift in the go-live date, all other aspects of the transition communicated to our providers via bulletins through the Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Rx websites remain unchanged.

DHCS appreciates your continued support and collaboration relative to this important project and looks forward to the successful launch and AOO of Medi-Cal Rx on April 1, 2021. If you have any questions about this notification, please feel free to direct them to the Medi-Cal Rx Project Team at RxCarveOut@dhcs.ca.gov. Thank you.

Provider Portal Tip: Access Your EFT Payment Cover Sheets Online

Effective November 2020, paper cover sheets for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payments have been discontinued.

Digital versions of the cover sheets are now accessible in your Provider Portal. To access the cover sheets, please visit the Payment History section of your Provider Portal and select "Reports." If you do not have access to the Payment History tool, please contact your Portal Administrator for access.

Want to receive payments faster?

Enroll into EFT via the CenCal Health Provider Portal. Visit our website at cencalhealth.org/providers/claims/ and reference the 'EFT' tab for more information. Contracted Providers can also contact the Provider Services department at (805) 562-1676 or psrgroup@cencalhealth.org for assistance with enrollment.

Beginning 1/1/21: CenCal Health to Prefer Select Biosimilar Products

Effective January 1, 2021, CenCal Health will prefer select biosimilar products over their reference products. This determination is consistent with the enabling statute of the Medi-Cal program found in title 22 around the provision of the lowest cost medically necessary service as well as the unanimous adoption by the network physicians and pharmacists at the August 2020 CenCal Health Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee meeting.

CenCal Health's preferred biosimilars will be for the following physician administered drugs:

Procedure Code	Drug Description
<u>Preferred Biosimilar</u> Q5107 Q5118	INJECTION, BEVACIZUMAB-AWWB, BIOSIMILAR (MVASI), 10 MG INJECTION, BEVACIZUMAB-BVZR, BIOSIMILAR, (ZIRABEV), 10 MG
<u>Non-Preferred Reference Product</u> J9035	INJECTION, BEVACIZUMAB, (AVASTIN, IMURON), 10mg
<u>Preferred Biosimilar</u> Q5117 Q5116	INJECTION, TRASTUZUMAB-ANNS, BIOSIMILAR, (KANJINTI), 10 MG INJECTION, TRASTUZUMAB-QYYP, BIOSIMILAR, (TRAZIMERA), 10 MG
<u>Non-Preferred Reference Product</u> J9355	INJECTION, TRASTUZUMAB, (HERCEPTIN), 10MG

All affected codes will remain as TAR required, but the preferred biosimilar products must be tried and failed before consideration of coverage of the reference product. The biosimilar products are not interchangeable with the reference product, and will require new orders. Biosimilar products are highly similar, and have no clinically meaningful differences from an existing FDA-approved reference product.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact CenCal Health Pharmacy department at (805) 562-1080.