

## Duncan-Sanford, Judy A

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**From:** sdu\_Provider Services Help  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 12:28 PM  
**Subject:** Transition to Medi-Cal Rx Prescriber and Pharmacy Provider Registration and Training  
**Attachments:** HSD Pharmacy Benefit Quick Guide 10-21-21.docx; HSD-Medi-Cal Rx 101 final 11-3-21.doc



*County of San Diego – Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)*

### Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Information Notice



Beginning January 1, 2022, Medi-Cal pharmacy benefits will be transitioned to the fee-for-service delivery system for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries (referred to as “Medi-Cal Rx”).

The transition of Medi-Cal Rx pharmacy services from Medi-Cal managed care to fee-for-service will, among other things:

- Standardize the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit statewide under one delivery system;
- Improve access to pharmacy services with a pharmacy network that includes most of the state’s pharmacies and is generally more expansive than individual Medi-Cal managed care plan pharmacy networks;
- Apply statewide utilization management protocols to all outpatient drugs, as appropriate; and
- Strengthen California’s ability to negotiate state supplemental drug rebates with drug manufacturers as the largest Medicaid program in the country with over 13 million beneficiaries.

What will not change? The scope of the existing Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit will remain:

- Existing Medi-Cal managed care pharmacy carve-outs (i.e.: HIV/AIDS drugs, antipsychotics, drugs used to treat substance use disorders – as of January 1, 2022, these will be carved out of all MCPs);
- Providing pharmacy services as part of an all-inclusive billing structure in an inpatient or long-term care setting, regardless of delivery system;
- State Fair Hearing processes; and

- Medi-Cal Rx is not a prescription service and does not replace the e-prescribe system providers are currently using; any prescription services used before the transition can continue to be used.
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Please note: Healthy San Diego is hosting a Medi-Cal Rx Webinar on Monday, November 22, 2021, from 3:00PM – 4:00PM. Use this link here to access via Zoom. This webinar will provide an overview of the Medi-Cal Rx transition and Medi-Cal Rx Provider Portal and Q&A opportunity.

The Quality Management Team is in process of identifying unique impacts to BHS prescribers specifically and will be providing additional information within a few weeks. During this time, additional details can be found at the DHCS Medi-Cal Transition site or the DHCS official Medi-Cal Rx site.

Thank you,

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**Provider Services Team / Optum San Diego**

Optum San Diego Public Sector

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T 800-798-2254 Ext. 7

F 1 877-309-4862

[providerserviceshelp@optum.com](mailto:providerserviceshelp@optum.com)

[www.optumsandiego.com](http://www.optumsandiego.com)

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Denise Hammersla

619-641-6833 | [denise.hammersla@optum.com](mailto:denise.hammersla@optum.com)



## Medi-Cal Pharmacy Benefit *Med-Cal Rx* Overview

Effective January 1, 2022 all pharmacy benefits for Medi-Cal beneficiaries including those in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan will be covered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) stated-wide pharmacy benefit called Medi-Cal Rx. Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans will no longer be responsible to cover pharmacy benefits including Grievance and Appeals.

DHCS has contracted with Magellan Medicaid Administration to provide administrative services and supports relative to the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit.

Transitioning Pharmacy Benefits from the managed care delivery system to a state-wide FFS delivery system will, among other things:

- Standardized the Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit throughout the State
- Improve access to pharmacy services with a pharmacy network that includes approximately 94 percent of the state's licensed outpatient pharmacies
- Apply statewide utilization management protocols to all outpatient drugs
- Strengthen California's ability to negotiate state supplemental drug rebates with drug manufacturers, thereby creating additional cost savings

The change to a state-wide pharmacy benefit does not apply to the following:

- Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) plans
- Senior Care Action Network (SCAN)
- Cal MediConnect health plans
- Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP)

Effective January 1, 2022 Medi-Cal Rx will be responsible for managing and resolution of complaints and grievances raised by Managed Care Plan members, their Authorized Representatives, or other interested parties, regarding a Medi-Cal Rx complaint or grievance.

Effective January 1, 2022 Medi-Cal Rx will be responsible for managing member appeals involving disagreement with benefit-related decisions, such as coverage disputes, disagreeing with and seeking reversal of a request involving medical necessity etc...

### Resources:

DHCS Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service	(800) 977-2273
Consumer Center for Health Education & Advocacy	(877) 734-3258
Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan Customer Service	Health Plan ID Card
San Diego County Access & Crisis Line	(888) 724-7240