

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Information Notice

To:	BHS Contracted Service Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services – Quality Management Unit
Date:	November 10, 2021
Title	Update: Transition to Medi-Cal Rx Prescriber and Pharmacy Provider Registration and Training

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.

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.

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) or
- HHSa, QI Matters: qimatters.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov