

Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

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September 24, 2026

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Immunization requirements – APL 26-015

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to the Medi-Cal line of business.

This notification is based on Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 26-015](#), which can be found in full on the DHCS website. The guidance supersedes APL 24-008 and clarifies provider requirements related to immunization services.

What you need to know:

DHCS issued APL 26-015 to clarify immunization requirements and vaccine coverage for Medi-Cal managed care members. The APL reinforces requirements related to vaccine coverage, access, administration, and reporting, and supports timely access to recommended childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations.

POLICY

Providers must ensure members have timely access to immunizations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and other applicable clinical guidelines. Preventive immunization services given by Molina contracted providers are not subject to prior authorization. Providers are responsible for assessing and documenting immunization needs during routine visits and reporting administered vaccines to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) or other applicable immunization registry within 14 calendar days.

Additional key requirements can be found on Page 2 of this bulletin.

When this is happening:

APL 26-015 was issued on July 14, 2026, and is effective immediately.

Provider action

Providers should:

- Assess and document members' immunization needs during routine health visits.
- Ensure timely access to medically necessary vaccines.
- Contracted providers do not require prior authorization for recommended preventive immunizations.
- Report administered vaccines to the applicable immunization registry within 14 calendar days.

What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your [Molina Provider Relations Representative](#).



KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Molina is required to cover a wide range of preventive services and screenings including immunizations and preventative care services
- As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, Molina is required to cover Medicaid and CHIP members for all FDA-approved adult vaccines recommended by ACIP and their administration
- Children under age 21 will continue to be eligible for any vaccine that is on the CDC/ACIP pediatric immunization schedule or is recommended by a Provider, or approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- COVID-19 vaccinations and vaccine administration are carved out for Molina and covered through Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) for medical and pharmacy claims.
- Prior Authorization requirements are not to be applied to certain services, including preventive services
- For Members under age 21, other vaccines and vaccine administration are covered under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- Molina is expected to have Utilization Management policies and processes in place to evaluate, authorize, and make available Medically Necessary vaccines for off label uses in a timely manner to reduce barriers and avoid delays.
- Pharmacists are authorized to administer drugs and biological products that have been ordered by a prescriber.
- Medi-Cal does not reimburse individual pharmacists directly but reimburses the Medi-Cal enrolled pharmacy Provider where the claim is submitted
- Vaccines are available to Medi-Cal members younger than 19 years of age free of charge through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.
- Molina will allow all Members to access Local Health Departments (LHDs) for immunizations and for Molina to reimburse LHDs for the administration fee
- Molina is responsible for ensuring that their Subcontractors, Downstream Subcontractors, and Network Providers comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations