

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

November 2023

From: Melinda Kjer
Director, Provider Relations and Contracting

Subject: **All Plan Letter 23-026: Federal Drug Utilization Review Requirements Designed to Reduce Opioid Related Fraud, Misuse and Abuse**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 23-026](#), "Federal Drug Utilization Review Requirements Designed to Reduce Opioid Related Fraud, Misuse and Abuse." 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 23-026 reminds managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan about federal drug utilization review (DUR) requirements stated in the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act of 2018.

APL summary

- The APL advises MCPs to operate a DUR program that complies with the Medicaid-related DUR provisions in the SUPPORT Act.
- Claim review requirements include early, duplicate, and quantity limits, maximum daily morphine milligram equivalents and concurrent utilization alerts, with some permitted exclusions.
- APL 23-026 also advises MCPs to have a process to monitor and manage antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, and anti-depressant medications prescribed to children under 18 years of age and all foster children.
- The APL reminds MCPs to describe their process for identifying and addressing fraud and abuse of controlled substances.

Resources

- [Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services August 5, 2019 informational bulletin](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx website](#)

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 23-026 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-026.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about applying a benefit to Blue Shield Promise members, please contact Blue Shield Promise Provider Services via Live Chat after logging in at www.blueshieldca.com/provider or call **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.