


To: Medi-Cal Network Providers
From: Hugo Florez 
Vice President, Network Management

April 2021

Subject: **COVID-19 All Plan Letters – Revisions to APL 20-004 and APL 20-022**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has issued several All Plan Letters (APLs) to Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) in response to the current COVID-19 crisis. Recently, APL 20-004 and APL 20-022 were revised to provide additional guidance. We are sharing a summary of these revisions with you to ensure you are aware of the information.

Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise) also publishes other [COVID-19 information](#), some of which pertains to network Medi-Cal service providers.

[APL 20-004](#)

Emergency Guidance for Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans in Response to COVID-19

APL 20-004 was revised in March to include the following changes:

- **Aid Paid Pending (APP)** – “Through the duration of the [COVID-19 public health emergency], when a member’s appeal involves the termination, suspension, or reduction of previously authorized services, MCPs must provide APP when the member timely files an appeal.”
- **Encounter Data Validation (EDV)** – Due to the ongoing public health emergency, DHCS will continue to suspend EDV activities for the 2020-2021 time period.
- **Coverage of laboratory tests and x-rays** – State Plan Amendment 20-0025 allows coverage for laboratory tests and x-rays used to diagnose COVID-19.

[APL 20-022](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

The March revision states that “beginning March 15, 2021, health care providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals ages 16-64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more severe health conditions, or if as a result of a developmental or other severe high-risk disability.” To protect confidentiality, verification of the person’s condition or disability is not required; instead they will be asked to sign an attestation that they qualify.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL revisions. Please see the entire APLs for the complete requirements. The full text of all DHCS managed care APLs may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/AllPlanLetters.aspx>. Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.

If you have questions about applying any of the information in this notice to Blue Shield Promise members, please call our Provider Customer Care Department at **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.