

Summary of DHCS Medi-Cal Provider Bulletins – January 2026

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) issued Medi-Cal bulletins during **January 2026** with updates on the below topics. We are sharing this update with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

General Medicine

1. 2026 HCPCS Quarter 1 Update
2. ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes for Intimate Partner Violence
3. CPT Code 38228 Rate Update for CAR-T Services
4. Update for Select ICD-10-CM/PCS Codes for Quarterly 2024
5. Update: Children's Presumptive Eligibility Worksheet
6. Global Obstetrical Billing Update
7. PLA Codes 0402U and 0455U Updated to Medi-Cal Benefits
8. Documentation Requirements Changed for Prenatal Screen Follow-Up and Diagnostic Testing Services
9. PLA Codes 0134U and 0356U Are Medi-Cal Benefits
10. Select Biomarker Testing PLA Codes Are Now Medi-Cal Benefits
11. Provider Manual Revisions
 - a) [cel gen acc \(3\); chemo drug a \(8\); dyadic ser \(1-23, 24-25\); modif used \(30\); path molec \(95, 96\); prop lab \(76\); tar and non cdg \(13, 52\)](#)

For information about the above changes, please refer to: [Medi-Cal Update - General Medicine| January 2026| Bulletin 619](#)

Long Term Care

12. 2026 Distinct-Part Pediatric Subacute Facilities Reimbursement Rate Update
13. 2026 Freestanding Pediatric Subacute Facilities Reimbursement Rate Update

For information about the above changes, please refer to: [Medi-Cal Update - Long Term Care| January 2026| Bulletin 587](#)

Reminders:

- Providers should bill using valid Medi-Cal codes and following Medi-Cal guidelines for modifiers. Please visit the [dhcs.ca.gov](#) website for detailed billing and rate information.
- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) certification number (10-digit code) is required in box 23 of CMS-1500 claim form.
- Laboratories should regularly monitor the [CMS website](#) for new CLIA regulatory requirements.
- Blue Shield Promise requires the JW modifier (indicator of single dose container drug waste) when submitting drug claims.

blueshieldca.com/promise

- For long-term care (LTC) with ownership change, when DHCS publishes updated rates, Blue Shield Promise considers both the current and former NPI to price claims according to the LTC rate on file.
- For billing and diagnostic purposes, Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) shall be coded as other and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) shall be coded as autoimmune encephalitis until the American Medical Association and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services create and assign a specific code or codes. At this time, DHCS recommends using these diagnosis codes:
 - PANDAS: D89.89, which is used for "other specified disorders involving the immune mechanism, not elsewhere classified"
 - PANS: D89.9, which is used for "disorder involving the immune mechanism, unspecified"

If you have questions about applying a benefit to Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan members, please call our Provider Customer Service Department at **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.