



January 15, 2025

Welcome to America's Physician Groups' *California Update*. Each week APG reports the latest on health care happenings in the Golden State.

Here's what you'll find in this week's edition:

- Southern California [Wildfire](#) Impacts on Managed Care Coverage and Care Delivery
- [2025](#) APG California Policy & Advocacy Meeting Dates
- APG California Advocacy Member [Resources](#)



Southern California Wildfire Impacts on Managed Care Coverage and Care Delivery

The Governor has declared a state of emergency, triggering the disaster preparedness provisions under state law. The Department of Managed Health Care released [a resource guide](#) that includes All Plan Letter 25-001 requirements for health plans and their delegated RBOs/RKKs to follow:

- Require health plans and their delegated RBOs/RKKs to shorten time frames for prior approval, precertifications, or referrals and to extend the time such approvals, precertifications, or referrals remain valid. The DMHC also requires an extension of provider claim filing deadlines.
- Ensure the plan has a toll-free telephone number that impacted enrollees and providers may call for answers to questions, including questions about the loss of health plan identification cards, access to prescription refills, and how to access health care services.

- Prominently display on the health plan's website information describing how impacted enrollees can continue to access care and how enrollees and providers can contact the plan for more information.
- Suspend prescription refill limitations and allow impacted enrollees to refill their prescriptions without prior authorization at in-network or out-of-network pharmacies. The plan shall also allow impacted enrollees to obtain new prescriptions at out-of-network pharmacies. The plan shall ensure enrollees are subject to no more than their ordinary in-network cost-sharing.
- Allow enrollees to replace medical equipment or supplies if the enrollee must do so because the enrollee has been displaced due to the state of emergency.
- Allow enrollees to access care from appropriate out-of-network providers if in-network providers are unavailable within the timely and geographic access standards due to the State of Emergency or if the enrollee is outside the area due to displacement. The plan shall ensure enrollees in such instances are not subject to more than their ordinary in-network cost-sharing for such services.
- With respect to hospitals (including non-contracted hospitals) that have been or may be impacted by the State of Emergency, reduce, or remove unnecessary barriers to the efficient admission, transfer, and discharge of plan enrollees.

APG is here for you. If your organization has suggestions on needed changes, flexibilities or issues that impede your ability to deliver care to your patients, let us know, and we will intervene with state officials. We also want to inform the Administration and Legislature about your good work during this crisis. So please, send us your stories when time permits.



2025 APG California Policy & Advocacy Meeting Dates

Members, please mark your calendars for APG's California Policy Forum and California Medi-Cal Forum meetings. You can download APG's 2025 events calendar [here](#).

California Policy Forum

2:00 - 3:00 pm

- February 13
- April 10
- June 12

- November 12

California Medi-Cal Forum

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- May 20
- October - TBD



APG California Advocacy Member Resources

- **Tracked Health Care Bills [2025-26](#):** bills we're following in the California State Legislature
- **Digital Exchange Framework** [APG member tool kit](#), [QHIO webinar](#) and [DxF Program summary slide deck](#)
- **Office of Health Care Affordability** [regulations](#) and [explanatory slide deck](#)
- APG, Moss Adams, Sheppard Mullin **CMIR Regulation** [webinar](#) and [slides](#)
- **DMHC SB 510** [All Plan Letter](#) on Health Plan payment responsibilities
- **DMHC Quality and Equity Reporting** program [All Plan Letter](#)
- **DHCS Medi-Cal Medical Loss Ratio** [Implementation Summary](#)
- **DHCS Medi-Cal Connect** [Population Health Program](#) Information

For more news and resources, please visit APG's [website](#) or contact a member of APG's California advocacy team.

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