

## Medication Trend Updates and Formulary Changes – 3rd Quarter 2024

### Review formulary changes and medication safety issues

Stay up to date with information about:

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) medication safety tips for older adults
- Changes to the Medi-Cal Drug Lists for the third quarter of 2024.

#### FDA medication safety tips for older adults

The FDA reminded consumers that even if their medications have worked well for them over the years, they might need to be adjusted or changed later in life. As people age, physical changes can affect the way the body handles medications and how medicines work. In addition, older adults are likely to use more prescription and over-the-counter medications, which increases the risk of harmful side effects and drug interactions.

The FDA recommends important medication safety tips as follow:

- **Take medicine as prescribed:** Take prescriptions following the directions on the label as directed by health care professional. Do not skip doses or stop taking a prescribed drug without first consulting with the doctor. Avoid taking medicine that has been prescribed to others.
- **Store medicines properly and check the expiration date:** Storing medications properly helps them remain safe and effective. Most medicines are best kept in a cool, dry place. Keep medicines stored up and away from children who may be at risk for accidental poisoning. Check the expiration date of medicines and discard any unused or expired drugs promptly.
- **Check for potential medication interactions and side effects:** Drug labels contain information on potential interactions. Even common food and drinks can cause serious interactions with medications. Review any special instructions from health care professionals and discuss any side effects that could be caused by medications.
- **Keep a medication list:** Writing down all the medicines the member is taking can help track doses and detect any potential drugs interactions.

#### THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO MEDI-CAL PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups

#### PROVIDER SERVICES

CalViva Health Medi-Cal  
(including ECM and CS providers) –  
888-893-1569

#### PROVIDER PORTAL

[provider.healthnetcalifornia.com](http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com)

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The list should include the name of each medicine, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and supplements. For prescription drugs, indicate the prescriber name and reason for taking such medicine. The list should be shown to all health care providers, including physical therapists and dentists. Ideally, keep a copy at home and another one with the member at all times.

To learn more on medication safety tips, visit [fda.gov](https://bit.ly/FDAMedicationSafetyTips) or refer to <https://bit.ly/FDAMedicationSafetyTips>.

### Changes to the Medi-Cal Drug Lists

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee includes practicing physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals. Each quarter, the P&T Committee reviews medications on the Formulary for commercial members, the Medi-Cal Drug Lists and Medicare Part D Formulary for Medicare members to determine which medications remain on the same tier and which are moved. A table listing some recent changes begins on page 3. The list contains brand-name prescription medications, status, other medication choices, and comments for the third quarter of 2024.

To view the Medi-Cal Drug Lists, refer to the Plan's Prior Authorization, also referred to as Pre-Certification list at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations> found under Prior Authorization Lists > *Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service Health Net, CalViva Health and Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley > Outpatient Pharmaceuticals (Submitted Under Medical Benefit)*.

### Pharmacy help line

For more information regarding changes to the Medi-Cal Drug Lists, contact the proper pharmacy phone number listed.

Product	Phone number	Fax number
Pharmacy Benefit (Medi-Cal Rx)	800-977-2273	800-869-4325
Medical Benefit Drugs (Medi-Cal)	800-675-6110	833-953-3436

### Additional information

Providers are encouraged to access the provider portal online at [provider.healthnetcalifornia.com](http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com) for real-time information, including eligibility verification, claims status, prior authorization status, plan summaries, and more.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact CalViva Health at 888-893-1569.

## Changes to the Medi-Cal Drug Lists

Medication	Status	Formulary alternative(s)	Comments
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### Oral preparation

Rezdiffra™ (resmetirom) tablet	Carved out to state		A thyroid hormone receptor-beta (THR-beta) agonist indicated in conjunction with diet and exercise for the treatment of adults with noncirrhotic nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) with moderate to advanced liver fibrosis (consistent with stages F2 to F3 fibrosis).
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### Injectable preparation

Feraheme® (ferumoxytol) single-dose vial	Medical benefit		Prior authorization is removed. Generic is preferred.
Amtagvi™ (lifileucel) suspension for intravenous infusion	Medical benefit <sup>1</sup>		A tumor-derived autologous T cell immunotherapy indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma previously treated with a PD-1 blocking antibody, and if BRAF V600 mutation positive, a BRAF inhibitor with or without a MEK inhibitor.
Casgevy™ (exagamglogene autotemcel) suspension vial	Medical benefit <sup>1</sup>		An autologous genome edited hematopoietic stem cell-based gene therapy indicated for the treatment of patients ages 12 years and older with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sickle cell disease (SCD) with recurrent vaso-occlusive crises (VOCs).</li> <li>• Transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia (TDT).</li> </ul>
Lyfgenia® (lovotibeglogene autotemcel) suspension bag in a metal cassette	Medical benefit <sup>1</sup>		An autologous hematopoietic stem cell-based gene therapy indicated for the treatment of patients 12 years of age or older with sickle cell disease and a history of vaso-occlusive events.

Note: The information above is subject to change. Please refer to the provider portal at [provider.healthnetcalifornia.com](http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com) for the most up-to-date formulary and drug lists status.

<sup>1</sup>Prior authorization is required to verify that the member is eligible and satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.