

Medication Trend Updates and Formulary Changes – 4th Quarter 2025

Review drug list, formulary and drug benefit changes and medication safety issues

Stay up to date with information about:

- Big changes to opioid medicine labels to help prevent overdose.
- Contact information for prescription drug prior authorization requests.
- Changes to the Medi-Cal drug benefits for the fourth quarter of 2025.

Big changes to opioid medicine labels to help prevent overdose

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is making big changes to the labels on all opioid pain medicines. These changes will help people understand the risks of using these drugs over a long period of time.

In May 2025, experts looked at data showing that long-term use of opioids can lead to serious problems like misuse, addictions, fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary said, “Almost one million Americans have died during the opioid crisis. We must do better to protect people.”

The new labels will include:

- Clear warnings about addiction and overdose.
- Stronger dosing warnings for high or prolonged use.
- Tips for stopping the medicine safely.
- Treatment guidance recommending long-acting opioids only if shorter options are inadequate.
- Information about overdose-reversal drugs like naloxone.
- Details about how opioids can interact with other drugs and cause rare problems in the brain and stomach.

The FDA is also asking for a new study to better understand the risks and benefits of using opioids for a long-term opioid use.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups

PROVIDER SERVICES

CHPIV Medi-Cal
(including ECM and CS providers) –
833-236-4141

PROVIDER PORTAL

provider.healthnetcalifornia.com

Health care providers are encouraged to give the smallest dose of short-acting opioids for the shortest time possible. They should also talk to patients about the risks and how to use overdose-reversal drugs.

Source: [FDA News Release](#)

Contact information for prescription drug prior authorization requests

A new version of the *Prescription Drug Prior Authorization or Step Therapy Exception Request Form* is now available. You can find it in the Provider Library at providerlibrary.healthnetcalifornia.com > select line of business > *Forms and References* > search for *Prescription Drug Prior Authorization or Step Therapy Exception Form*.

Also, please note that contact information for submitting the form depends on the member's line of business. Make sure to use the correct contact details when sending your request.

Medi-Cal

Prior authorization type	Contact	Fax	Phone
Self-administered medication requests	Medi-Cal Rx	800-869-4325	800-977-2273
Physician-administered medications	Pharmacy services	833-953-3436	800-867-6564 Option 2

Changes to Medi-Cal drug benefits

The Pharmacy Advisory Committee is made up of practicing physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals. Every quarter, the committee reviews medications on the Medi-Cal drug benefits list. They decide which medications stay on the same tier and which ones move to a different tier.

A table showing some of the recent changes for **Q4 2025** is available on **pages 3-4**. It includes:

- Medication names
- Their updated formulary status
- Formulary alternative options
- Notes or comments

You can find the complete list of formularies for all products, including the Medi-Cal Drug Lists on the Pharmacy Information for Providers page at <https://bit.ly/PharmacyInformationforProviders>.

For medical drug benefits, check the *Outpatient Pharmaceuticals (Submitted Under Medical Benefit)* section of the Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley Prior Authorization List at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations>.

Pharmacy help lines

For more information regarding changes to the Medi-Cal medical benefit drugs, 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)	800-867-6564, option #2	833-953-3436

Additional Information

Providers are encouraged to access the provider portal online at 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 Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley at 833-236-4141.

Changes to the Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley Medi-Cal drug benefits

Medication	Status	Formulary alternative(s)	Comments
Oral preparation			
Gomekli™ (mirdametinib) capsule	Carved out to state		A kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older with neurofibromatosis type 1 who have symptomatic plexiform neurofibromas not amenable to complete resection.
Journavx™ (suzetrigine) tablet	Carved out to state		A sodium channel blocker indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe acute pain in adults.
Romvimza™ (vimseltinib) capsule	Carved out to state		A kinase inhibitor indicated for treatment of adult patients with symptomatic tenosynovial giant cell tumor for which surgical resection will potentially cause worsening functional limitation or severe morbidity.
Thiola EC® (tiopronin) delayed-release tablet	Carved out to state		A reducing and complexing thiol indicated, in combination with high fluid intake, alkali and diet modification, for the prevention of cystine stone formation in adults and pediatric patients 20 kg and greater with severe homozygous cystinuria, who are not responsive to these measures alone.

Note: The information above is subject to change. Please refer to the Prior Authorization List at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations> for the most up-to-date information.

Changes to the Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley Medi-Cal drug benefits, *continued*

Medication	Status	Formulary alternative(s)	Comments
Injectable preparation			
Datroway® (datopotamab deruxtecan-dlnk) single-dose vial	Medical benefit ²		<p>A Trop-2-directed antibody and topoisomerase inhibitor conjugate indicated for the treatment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-mutated non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who have received prior EGFR-directed therapy and platinum-based chemotherapy. • Adult patients with unresectable or metastatic, hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative (IHC 0, IHC 1+ or IHC 2+/ISH-) breast cancer who have received prior endocrine-based therapy and chemotherapy for unresectable or metastatic disease.
Ryoncil® (remestemcel-L-rknd) cell suspension for intravenous infusion	Medical benefit ²		An allogeneic bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stromal cell (MSC) therapy indicated for the treatment of steroid-refractory acute graft versus host disease (SR-aGvHD) in pediatric patients 2 months of age and older.

Note: The information above is subject to change. Please refer to the Prior Authorization List at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations> for the most up-to-date information.

²Prior authorization is required to verify that the member is eligible and satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.