

## Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants  
From: Manuel T. G. Enriquez  
Senior Director, Provider Network Management

August 2024

**Subject: All Plan Letter 24-008: Immunization Requirements**

---

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 24-008](#), "Immunization Requirements." We are sharing a summary of this APL with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

APL 24-008 clarifies guidance related to the provision of immunizations to Medi-Cal members. Managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan are advised to ensure timely provision of immunizations to members in accordance with the most recent schedules and recommendations published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), regardless of a member's age, sex, or medical condition, including pregnancy.

[View the ACIP 2024 immunization schedules](#)

### APL summary

- Immunizations are covered as a medical benefit.
- Pharmacists may administer vaccines to individuals three years of age and older; to do so, pharmacist must meet certain requirements, such as training, basic life support certification, continuing education, and recordkeeping requirements.
- Pharmacist immunization services may be billed to MCPs as a medical claim.
- Starting August 1, 2024, and retroactive to January 1, 2023, pharmacists can be reimbursed for their professional services when administering free vaccines for the Vaccines for Children program. These claims may be billed to Medi-Cal Rx or to the member's MCP as a medical claim.
- The APL advises network providers to document member needs for recommended immunizations as part of all regular health visits, including:
  - Illness, care management or follow-ups
  - Initial Health Appointments
  - Pharmacy services
  - Prenatal and postpartum care
  - Pre-travel visits
  - Sports, school, or work physicals
  - Visits to a local health department
  - Well patient checkups
- As preventative services, ACIP-recommended immunizations are not subject to prior authorization.
- Immunizations should be reported to various local and state public health entities noted in the APL.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of APL 24-008 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL%202024/APL24-008.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about applying a benefit to our members, please contact Blue Shield Promise Provider Services via Live Chat after logging in at [www.blueshieldca.com/provider](http://www.blueshieldca.com/provider) or call **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.