

To: Blue Shield of California network participants

April 2023

From: Blue Shield of California operations department

**Subject: How Senate Bill 1419 affects access to patient records and the sharing of test results**

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We are writing to help support your awareness of California Senate Bill (SB) 1419 requirements for managing access to patient records and sharing test results. While some items in the bill are already part of existing privacy mandates, the following may require changes to your current practices.

**Minor patient records**

- SB 1419 expands on existing law to clarify that patient records include clinical notes.
- It further restricts the ability of a minor's representative to inspect or obtain copies of records about certain medical and mental health services the minor is legally authorized to consent to.

**Test results**

- SB 1419 expands the scope of the law to apply to any test (not just clinical laboratory tests) and includes imaging scans as well, such as x-rays, ultrasounds, magnetic resonance imaging, and so forth.
- It removes the requirement that results may only be disclosed by internet posting after they have been reviewed by a healthcare professional.
- However, restrictions against disclosing results via internet posting or other electronic means remain for the following:
  - A positive HIV test, unless the patient was tested anonymously and given a secure code; or if the patient has previously been informed of positive HIV test results in the required manner
  - The presence of antigens indicating hepatitis infection
  - Indications showing the abuse of drugs
  - Results of routinely processed tissue samples and imaging scans that reveal a new or recurring malignancy

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the bill's requirements related to health information that may differ from existing mandates. Please see the bill itself for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of SB 1419 may be found here:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1419](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1419)

If you have any questions, please call our Provider Customer Service team at (800) 541-6652, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Thank you for continuing to provide quality healthcare services to our members.