

  
**April 17, 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:

- APG Submits Comments As [Prior Authorization Bills](#) Advance To Hearing
- APG California Policy Forum And Medicaid Dual Eligibles Forum [Meetings](#) at Annual Spring Conference 2025
- APG Members Are Invited To Attend A Breakfast Session On "[Enhancing Dementia Care](#)" During Our Annual Spring Conference 2025
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### **APG Submits Comments As Prior Authorization Bills Advance To Hearing**

Four pending bills on prior authorization are advancing to their first legislative hearing next week. APG has taken an oppose unless amended position on all four of the bills, [AB 510](#), [AB 512](#), [AB 539](#) and [SB 306](#). All four bills are sponsored by the California Medical Association. During last weeks California Policy Committee meeting, APG California Board members reached consensus on the position. The bills would apply to licensed health plans and then require delegated risk-bearing organizations to comply with the new provisions. In sum, the bills would make the following changes to the prior authorization process:

- Remove any code or service that is approved 90% or more in the preceding year from any further prior authorization review for the following year
- Require that all review of standard requests be conducted within 48 hours, with urgent matters handled within 24 hours
- Require that all appeals and grievances be conducted within two business days by a physician of the same specialty as the requesting physician

- Require that all authorizations are good for one calendar year, with no exceptions

APG is working with other stakeholders on the opposition. We have met with the legislators carrying the bills and other members of the Assembly and Health Committees. The bills will be heard next Tuesday and Wednesday in Sacramento and APG will provide testimony. You can read all four of our comment letters [here](#). As the bills move forward through the process we will be issuing a call to action to our members and providing further information.



### **APG California Policy Forum And Medicaid Dual Eligibles Forum Meetings at Annual Spring Conference 2025**

APG will hold special sessions of the **California Policy Forum** and **Medicaid Dual Eligibles Coalition** on Wednesday, May 14. Learn more [here](#).

Medicaid and Dual Eligibles Coalition: 8:30 - 10:00 am  
California Policy Meeting: 10:15 - 11:45 am

[Register](#) today!



### **APG Members Are Invited To Attend A Breakfast Session On “Enhancing Dementia Care” On May 15 During Our Annual Spring Conference 2025**

## Opportunity to Improve Your Dementia Care: Adopt an Evidence-Based Model or Co-Create a New Model

With the support of The John A. Hartford Foundation, the National Dementia Care Collaborative (NDCC) is supporting technical assistance of up to 10 APG groups to implement comprehensive dementia care.

### Eligibility Criteria

- APG member organizations with **at least 30%** of Medicare patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage

### Benefits

- Assistance in adopting/adapting dementia care models
- Payment to organizations to survey dementia caregivers in their practices



To connect with the NDCC team, scan the QR code to complete a survey and visit our website at <https://www.ndcc.edc.org/>



### APG To Launch The 2025 Case Studies In Excellence

On May 19, all APG members will be invited to submit their newest programs that demonstrate innovative, high-quality health care initiatives. Please look for APG's Call for Abstracts 2025 invitation.

Each edition of the [Case Studies in Excellence](#) highlights the exceptional value-based care our members provide to their patients and aims to share best practices across the APG membership and with other organizations.



### APG To Disseminate Findings From The Duals Experience In CA Physician-led, Value-based Care Organizations Project

In 2024, APG was awarded a grant by CHCF to examine enablers and barriers for provider groups to participate in Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) provider networks.

APG is now drafting three briefs for specific target audiences (DHCS, CA DSNP health plans, and CA providers/RBOs) that cover topics discussed and insights gained through our focus groups and key informant interview activities with APG's CA risk-bearing provider organizations. Topics include

DSNP and state-specific MOC implementation experience, provider interest/capacity to care for Duals, coordination of benefits, data sharing/interoperability, care coordination needs, and corresponding improvement strategies and recommendations. APG CMO, Dr Susan Huang, will provide an overview and presentation to APG CA members between June and September, prior to the release of the Briefs.

APG will also engage in meetings with DHCS and with directors at local initiative health plans to share findings and discuss opportunities for collaborating more effectively to serve dual-eligible beneficiaries in CA.



### 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**

- June 12
- November 12

#### California Medi-Cal Forum

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

- **May 20: Canceled**
- 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

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

William Barcellona, EVP of Government Affairs..... [wbarcellona@apg.org](mailto:wbarcellona@apg.org)

David Gonzalez, Senior Legislative Advocate..... [dgonzalez@apg.org](mailto:dgonzalez@apg.org)

Norma Springsteen, Administrative Coordinator.... [nspringsteen@apg.org](mailto:nspringsteen@apg.org)



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