

September 19, 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:

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California Passes Prior Authorization Legislation – Now Subject To Governor's Review

The 2025 session ended last week, and we now have a final tally of the health care related bills that have passed the Legislature. This past year has been focused on prior authorization reform. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure all the requested amendments to the remaining three prior authorization bills to a suitable degree, and so we have joined with CAHP and ACHLIC in seeking a veto on [AB 512](#), [AB 682](#), and [SB 306](#). Our veto request letters can be found [here](#). Earlier in the session, we were successful in holding three other prior authorization bills from passage this year. They included [AB 510](#), [AB 539](#), and [SB 363](#). The Governor is reviewing several hundred bills that passed the Legislature last week and will sign or veto bills by October 12th or sooner. Should all three of the pending prior authorization bills be signed into law we will see an increase in plan reporting of UM statistics and outcomes, review times for prior authorization requests will be shortened significantly, and by 2028, the DMHC/CDI will shorten the types of services subject to prior authorization. There is significant nuance to this process, however. For example, our [summary](#) of the process for the implementation of SB 306,

should it become law, provides clarity on both the extent and limits of the legislation.

We are continuing to engage on these bills during the Governor's review period. APG will provide in-person presentations on the 2025 legislative session at the upcoming fall regional meetings in San Diego, Irvine, and San Ramon, as well as our online presentation at the California Policy Forum meeting, which is being moved from November 20 to December 5.

Click the links below to register for these upcoming APG meetings:

- [September 26 San Diego Regional Meeting](#)
- [October 7 Northern California Regional Meeting](#)
- [October 9 Southern California Regional Meeting](#)
- [December 5 California Policy Forum](#)



California Alters Requirements For Vaccinations From Federal Standards

California recently joined with Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii to form the [West Coast Vaccine Alliance](#) to preserve the recommended immunization standards that are being changed at the federal level. The Department of Managed Health Care issued [All Plan Letter 25-015](#) yesterday, which summarizes the mandates enacted under last week's budget trailer bill, [AB 144](#). California's AB 144, signed by Governor Newsom on September 17, 2025, ensures continued access to preventive care, particularly vaccines, by setting a baseline of federal recommendations (in effect on January 1, 2025) and allowing the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to modify them in response to new evidence-based guidance. The Department of Managed Health Care issued APL 25-015 to implement the provisions of AB 144 in the fully-insured market. The APL applies to all full-service plans (including restricted licensees) in commercial and Medi-Cal. The provisions of this APL include:

Coverage of Preventive Care Services (General Rule)

- Plans must cover preventive care items and services (including immunizations) that had a USPSTF "A" or "B" rating or ACIP recommendation as of January 1, 2025, even if later downgraded.
- Coverage must be provided without cost-sharing (no copay, coinsurance, or deductible) and without utilization management (no prior authorization or similar limits)

Role of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

- CDPH may supplement or modify the federal USPSTF/ACIP recommendations.
- Plans must adopt and begin covering these new recommendations within 15 business days of CDPH publication

COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Immunizations

- COVID-19: Must cover immunizations for all groups identified by CDPH (children, adults, pregnant/postpartum/lactating people) even if FDA labeling is narrower (e.g., “off-label” coverage still required).
- Influenza: Must cover immunizations for all children ≥ 6 months, all adults ≥ 18 , and all pregnancy categories.
- RSV: Must cover for infants/young children, adults ≥ 75 , adults 50–74 with risk factors, and pregnant people



APG Publishes Issue Briefs: Transforming Care For Duals With Aligned Medicare Medi-Cal Plans In California

APG is excited to share a series of three issue briefs focused on how capitated and delegated medical providers, health plans, and state policymakers can collaborate to effectively transform care for California’s Duals (those eligible for both Medicare and Medi-Cal) through the implementation of aligned D-SNPs.

APG developed these issue briefs from focus groups and interviews conducted between September 2024 and January 2025 with 20 APG members who serve more than 200,000 Duals in California. Each brief focuses on a specific audience: 1) California policymakers, 2) health plans, and 3) medical providers. The series amplifies the care experience of accountable physician organizations, shares insights with key stakeholders, and addresses improvement opportunities that support the successful implementation of CalAIM's aligned D-SNPs.

APG thanks its participating member organizations and leaders, our project partner, [Transform Health, LLC](#), and our project sponsor, the [California Health Care Foundation](#).

Click [here](#) to access this issue brief series.



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

- **November 12 - Rescheduled to December 5 at 12 - 1pm**

California Medi-Cal Forum

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- October - TBD



APG Partners With CVEEP To Provide Members With Vaccine Related Resources

APG has partnered with [Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity and Progress \(CVEEP\)](#) to provide APG members with consumer-facing materials to assist with vaccine outreach and education in patient communications during the upcoming respiratory virus season. Please access tailored materials for APG members [here](#).



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

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

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