



October 24, 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:

- What's Next For [Provider Directory Data](#) Regulatory Changes, Symphony, And Beyond
- Immigration Status Of [Medi-Cal Expansion Populations](#)
- APG [Implementation Guide To SB 503](#) – Medi-Cal Time And Distance Standards
- [Shared Clinical Decision Making](#) Guide from the Common Health Coalition
- 2025 APG California Policy & Advocacy [Meeting Dates](#)
- APG California Advocacy Member [Resources](#)



What's Next For Provider Directory Data Regulatory Changes, Symphony, And Beyond

Provider directories are under more scrutiny than ever. But for providers, keeping your information accurate in health plan directories is more than a compliance issue – it affects reimbursements, patient access, and your staff's time.

Join us for a live webinar where leaders from IHA's Symphony Provider Directory, APG, and Availity analyze how providers and plans can better work together to maintain accurate directory data with less manual burden. We'll also share insights from Symphony's recent work with state and federal regulators and discuss how anticipated regulatory changes, including SB 137, AB 1041, AB 280, and more will impact providers over the coming year.

Speakers will include:

- Carrie Bersot, Senior Director, Client Success & Operations, IHA
- Sarah Lally, Director, Strategy & Operations Engagement, IHA

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

12:00 - 1:00 pm PT
To register, click [here](#).



Immigration Status Of Medi-Cal Expansion Populations

Age Category	Sub-Pop UIS	UIS % of Total Age Category
Children under 19	217,550	4%
Adults 19-49	1,002,261	19%
Adults 50+	445,707	9%

The expansion population of Medi-Cal beneficiaries includes about 5 million individuals and about 1/3 of them fall under “unsatisfactory immigration status” of “UIS.” The chart above reflects the breakdown by three major age categories when compared to the total eligible beneficiaries within those categories. California has capped enrollment for adults with UIS beginning January 1, 2026

The California Health Care Foundation’s September, 2025 issue brief, *Covering the Uninsured: Considerations for California as It Prepares for Coverage Losses*, explores strategies for maintaining health care coverage for uninsured individuals. The author examines existing programs that may serve as models for new initiatives, and urges policymakers to streamline eligibility processes.

APG members may find this issue brief helpful to evaluate the potential loss of enrollment in their organizations and as a framework for future advocacy on solutions to preserve coverage for some of the neediest and most vulnerable Californians.

Source: [California Health Care Foundation Issue Brief](#), September 2025



APG Implementation Guide To SB 503 – Medi-Cal Time And Distance Standards

SB 530 (Richardson, Chapter 418, Statutes of 2025) extends and strengthens Medi-Cal’s network adequacy standards governing time, distance, and appointment access for managed care plans through

January 1, 2029. The law expands accountability by requiring subcontractor-level reporting, maintaining in-person access despite telehealth availability, incorporating rate adequacy in alternative access standards, mandating direct DHCS 'secret shopper' testing, and enhancing transparency through public workplans and stakeholder engagement.

Under prior law, Medi-Cal's network adequacy standards were scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2026, relying primarily on plan self-reporting and DHCS complaint reviews. SB 530 extends these provisions to 2029 and makes several substantive changes. It introduces subcontractor-level accountability, requiring plans to document and report compliance for their delegated networks. Telehealth may no longer substitute for in-person access, but can complement it when clinically appropriate. Beginning January 1, 2027, DHCS must evaluate rate sufficiency before approving Alternative Access Standards (AAS). Public transparency is strengthened through a required DHCS workplan, stakeholder group, and public comment process by January 1, 2027. Finally, by January 1, 2029, DHCS must implement direct 'secret shopper' testing to verify appointment availability and may impose enhanced access standards through plan contracts.

Our [SB 503 Implementation Guide](#) summarizes and analyzes the provisions of the bill and its potential impact on our members. As the implementation process unfolds, we will update the guide based on new information. We encourage our members to provide their input, questions, and concerns as we move forward.



Shared Clinical Decision Making Guide from the Common Health Coalition

The CDC [released](#) official COVID-19 vaccine guidance on October 6, confirming that individuals who are not at-risk should consult with their health care providers, who can offer “shared decision making,” on **the benefits of receiving COVID-19 or other vaccines and boosters**. Practically speaking, this means that anyone who wants a COVID booster should be able to get one, as health insurers have also agreed to continue covering the cost of vaccines – maintaining access at pharmacies and doctors’ offices. **To learn more important considerations and requirements on “shared decision making,”** please see this [helpful guide](#) developed by the [Common Health Coalition](#).



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 - *Under Construction*



APG California Advocacy Member Resources

- **SB 306 - Prior Authorization Reform** [Summary](#)
- **Tracked Health Care Bills 2025-26:** bills we're following in the California State Legislature
- **Office of Health Care Affordability** [regulations](#) and [explanatory slide deck](#)
- **DMHC Quality and Equity Reporting program** [All Plan Letter](#)

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

David Gonzalez, Senior Legislative Advocate..... dgonzalez@apg.org

Norma Springsteen, Administrative Coordinator.... nspringsteen@apg.org



This message was sent to nspringsteen@apg.org from:
America's Physician Groups

611 N. Brand Blvd., Ste. 1300, Glendale, CA 91203

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