



December 12, 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 Preparing Draft Whitepaper On [SB 306 Prior Authorization Implementation](#) Process By DMHC
- ACIP Newborn [Hepatitis B Vaccine Decision](#) And Updated Provider Resources From CA PHACT Coalition
- In Case You Missed It: IHA's [Provider Directory Webinar](#)
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APG Preparing Draft Whitepaper On SB 306 Prior Authorization Implementation Process By DMHC

APG joined with CAHP and Sharp Healthcare this past week to brief a health care industry audience on the implementation of [SB 306](#) (Becker) prior authorization reform at the annual [Health Industry Collaboration Effort](#) conference during our annual legislative briefing on the first day of the HICE conference. Many industry participants are still unaware of the broad impact that California's prior authorization reform legislation will have on UM operations beginning on January 1, 2028. [APG's SB 306 Implementation Guide](#) provides a summary of the key provisions and the timetable for implementation. We recently updated the Guide to version 2 this week.

SB 306 will decrease the service codes subject to prior authorization when fully implemented on January 1, 2028. A final list of codes will be determined by the CDI and DMHC when they review the aggregate data supplied by all licensed health plans and health insurers in 2026. Where the aggregate data shows that service codes were approved 90% or more of the time they will be subject to exclusion from prior authorization for the period between 1/1/28 – 1/1/2034. But that determination is not automatic. Subsection (C)(2) of the statute enables the regulators to

further consider which of those potentially excluded services should be kept within prior authorization review under five factors, regardless of the approval rate:

1. Clinical appropriateness
2. Fraud, waste and abuse
3. Potential cost savings, including enrollee out of pocket costs
4. Quality and access improvements from removing prior authorization
5. Other factors deemed appropriate by the department

APG is compiling recommendations from its members on which services should be retained under prior authorization based on patient safety, potential for cost escalation and FWA. We need your input sooner rather than later, because the Department is moving quickly to implement the first phase of data collection from licensed health plans.



In Case You Missed It: IHA's Provider Directory Webinar

On November 19, leaders from IHA's Symphony Provider Directory, APG, and Availity presented a webinar to analyze how providers and plans can better work together to maintain accurate directory data with less manual burden. They also shared insights from Symphony's recent work with state and federal regulators and discussed how anticipated regulatory changes, including SB 137, AB 1041, AB 280, and more will impact providers over the coming year.

You can watch the recording by clicking [here](#).



ACIP Newborn Hepatitis B Vaccine Decision And Updated Provider Resources From CA PHACT Coalition

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), reconstituted earlier this year by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., voted on Dec 5 to end the longstanding universal vaccination recommendation that all infants receive the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. APG joined an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [statement](#) decrying the ACIP decision.

In response, the [California Department of Public Health](#) reaffirms state laws and its evidence-based vaccine recommendations and coverage

requirements, including the newborn Hepatitis B vaccination dose. Several partner organizations also shared additional provider resources:

- **Common Health Coalition** [FAQ & Explainer](#) on the Dec 5 ACIP decision regarding newborns' Hep B vaccine dose
- **The Evidence Collective** [BRIEF](#) which offers communication guidance and key background information on current vaccine-related issues.

APG is also a part of CDPH's Public Health for All Californians Together (CA PHACT) coalition, which met most recently on Friday, Nov 14, and highlighted: (slides [here](#))

1. **COVID vaccine access barriers for commercially insured very young children** are being addressed by CDPH with direct purchase and distribution of doses to safety net sites for those children who can't find COVID vaccines in the community
2. Clinician hotline is available 24/7 as CDPH responds to **INFANT BOTULISM OUTBREAK** (23 cases across 13 states related to ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula):
 - **Clinical Support Line:** (510-231-7600) is open 24/7 for suspected infant botulism cases. Calls from medical providers receive priority response.
 - CDPH Info Page: [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program](#)
 - Parents Corner Website: [Infant Botulism Parents Corner](#)
 - The Infant Botulism Public Hotline (1-833-398-2022) is available toll-free 7 days a week, 7 a.m.–8 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) for anyone with questions/concerns
3. Latest [California Respiratory Virus Season Dashboard](#), accessible to health systems and providers.



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 Medi- Cal Forum

- **December 16 at 4 - 5pm, [Register Here](#)**



APG California Advocacy Member Resources

- [2025 Legislative Implementation Guide](#)
- **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.

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