

**February 20, 2026**

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:

- California Begins Process To Seek A [New Medi-Cal Managed Care Waiver](#)
- APG California Policy & Advocacy [2026 Meeting Dates](#)
- APG California Advocacy Member [Resources](#)



California Begins Process To Seek A New Medi-Cal Managed Care Waiver

The Cal-AIM Waiver is coming to a close this December 31st, and the Department of Health Care Services is convening a comment phase to collect input on its next application for a new waiver. The DHCS recently issued two documents that we will review at the upcoming March 10th meeting of the APG Medi-Cal Forum. APG is seeking our members' input on the proposed new waiver application for the written comments we will submit to DHCS.

The relevant documents include the [Notice of Public Interest](#) and the [Proposed Text](#). Written comments are due to DHCS no later than noon on Thursday, March 12th. We intend to circulate an advance draft of comments in early March and hold a final discussion on the draft comments at the Forum meeting of March 10th. You can register for the Forum meeting, which will be held via Zoom from 4:00-5:00 pm. on Tuesday March 10th. Registrants will be sent the draft comment letter in advance of the meeting when it has been finalized.

Register for the APG Medi-Cal Forum Meeting of March 10 [here](#).

Presently, APG intends to file comments on the following areas of the Waiver Application:

- Align Dually Eligible Enrollee's Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan and Medicare Advantage Plan
- Manage Care Authority to Limit Plan Choice in Certain Counties

- Bridge Care Pilots
- Community-Based Adult Services – Cost Sharing, Health Care Delivery Systems and Benefits
- MLR Reporting Requirement (tentatively)

Public Hearings will be held as follows:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 – First Public Hearing

o 1:55 – 2:55 PM PT

- o Department of Health Care Services

1501 Capitol Avenue (First Floor Conference Center 71.1316)

Sacramento, CA 95814

- o Register for the Teams conference [link](#)

Please register in advance if you plan to attend in person or virtually to receive your unique link to join the meeting and to add the hearing to your calendar.

- o Dial in by Phone: +1 279-895-6425; Phone Conference ID: 394 775 261#

» Tuesday, March 3, 2026 – Second Public Hearing

- o 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM PT

- o Department of Health Care Services

1700 K Street (First Floor, Conference Room 17.1014)

Sacramento, CA 95814

- o Register for Teams conference [link](#)

Please register in advance if you plan to attend in person or virtually to receive your unique link to join the meeting and to add the hearing to your calendar.

- o Dial in by Phone: +1 279-895-6425; Phone Conference ID: 973 094 191#



2026 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 2026 events calendar [here](#).

California Policy Forum

2:00 - 3:00 pm

- April 9
- June 3
- December 3

California Medi- Cal Forum

4:00 - 5:00 pm

- March 10 - Register [here](#)
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9
- August 11
- October 13
- November 10
- December 8



APG California Advocacy Member Resources

- [2025 Legislative Implementation Guide](#)
- **Tracked Health Care Bills 2025-26:** bills we're following in the California State Legislature
- November 2025 IHA Provider Directory webinar [recording](#)
- **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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