


July 16, 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:

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APG Seeks Member Input On Medicare Advantage Utilization Management Transparency Requirements

APG is requesting input from member organizations that use **MCG clinical guidelines** in their delegated Medicare Advantage utilization management programs regarding implementation of the **CMS CY 2024 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule (CMS-4201-F)**.

The Final Rule includes new transparency requirements governing the use of internal coverage criteria and utilization management policies. In recent months, APG has become aware that some Medicare Advantage plans have begun requesting information from delegated provider organizations concerning their implementation of these requirements, including the use of MCG's Transparency Tool and related website disclosures. At present, it is unclear whether health plans are taking a consistent approach to implementation or whether delegated provider organizations are receiving differing guidance regarding compliance expectations.

To better understand current implementation practices, APG has developed [a brief information request](#) for members that use MCG clinical guidelines. The questionnaire seeks information regarding communications from Medicare Advantage plans, guidance received from MCG, use of the MCG Transparency Tool, and whether health plans have identified any additional compliance requirements. If you aren't familiar with this issue, the link to the federal rule is contained in the questionnaire.

The information collected will help APG determine whether common implementation issues exist among delegated provider organizations and whether it would be beneficial to convene an APG member workgroup to discuss the issue and identify opportunities for additional member guidance or collective engagement with health plans and other stakeholders.

If your organization uses MCG clinical guidelines in its Medicare Advantage utilization management program, we encourage you to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to APG at your earliest convenience. Your participation will help ensure that APG has a comprehensive understanding of member experiences as implementation of the Final Rule continues to evolve. Please send your responses to wbarcellona@apg and use the subject line phrase: Response to APG M.A. transparency questionnaire.



APG Encourages Members To Attend July 28 Medi-Cal Transformation Seminar

California's Medi-Cal program is entering one of the most consequential periods in its history. In response to sweeping federal changes enacted through H.R. 1, the California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) will host a seminar, **"Navigating the Next Phase of Medi-Cal Transformation,"** on **Tuesday, July 28**, from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport. The program will bring together senior officials from the Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal managed care plans, providers, and other health care leaders to discuss the future direction of California's Medicaid program.

APG encourages members, particularly physician organizations, IPAs, MSOs, and other delegated entities, to consider attending this important program. The seminar will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from DHCS leadership regarding the State's response to H.R. 1, the future of CalAIM, and the operational and financing challenges facing Medi-Cal managed care over the coming years.

The meeting also provides an important opportunity for APG members to engage directly with state officials regarding the continuing role of California's delegated care model. As policymakers consider how best to implement federal reforms while preserving access to care, physician organizations should ensure that their experience delivering coordinated, value-based care is part of the discussion. APG believes the delegated model remains one of California's greatest strengths and will continue

advocating for policies that recognize the critical role physician organizations play in improving quality, managing costs, and coordinating care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Members interested in attending can review the [seminar announcement](#) and [registration](#) information. APG looks forward to continuing these conversations with DHCS and other stakeholders as California develops its next generation of Medi-Cal policy.



Attend APG's Inaugural Women's Health Summit

[APG's inaugural Women's Health Summit on July 23](#) is just around the corner.

APG's Women's Health Summit, exclusively for APG members, will be held on Thursday, July 23, at UCLA Health in Los Angeles. The main program runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Space is limited, so [register now](#) to secure your spot.

Noted scholar and researcher [Cat Bohannon, PhD](#), will deliver the opening keynote, **Understanding the Big Background Behind Women's Health**, drawing on her best-selling book *Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution*. Dr. Bohannon will also sign copies of her book beginning at 8:00 AM.

The Summit also features these sessions:

- Heart Disease Across a Woman's Lifespan
- Key Issues in Managing Perimenopause and Menopause
- Women's Use of GLP-1 Drugs for Weight Management and Beyond
- A New Name for PCOS: Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome
- Autoimmune Diseases in Women
- Mood and Anxiety Across the Female Life Cycle

Visit the [APG Women's Health Summit page](#) for full speaker information and event details. View the full agenda [here](#).

For more information or to ask about sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Lura Hawkins](#).



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

- December 3

California Medi-Cal Forum

4:00 - 5:00 pm

- August 11 - [Register](#)
- 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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