

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of September 14, 2026

State Issues

Medi-Cal Enrollees with UIS Moving to Fee-For-Service	Beginning January 1, 2027, approximately 2 million Medi-Cal patients without satisfactory immigration status (UIS) will transition from managed care to fee-for-service (FFS), changing the provider network through which they receive care and how physicians are reimbursed. The change is being implemented in response to 2025 federal guidance prohibiting states from including this population in Medicaid managed care risk-based contracts. Affected beneficiaries will remain enrolled in Medi-Cal but will no longer receive medical services through a Medi-Cal managed care plan or its network. Instead, they will receive services from providers enrolled in and accepting Medi-Cal FFS. <i>DHCS webinar on the FFS transition.</i> The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will host a free webinar, on Wednesday, September 30 from 10:00am to 11:00am, to help providers and advocates prepare for the transition and communicate clearly with affected patients. The webinar will cover which Medi-Cal members are affected, what will and will not change for them, steps providers should take and available tools and resources. Registration is not required. This session will cover: 1) An overview of the federally required transition; 2) Which Medi-Cal members are impacted; 3) Key Medi-Cal changes in 2026–2027, including the move to FFS; 4) What is changing and what is staying the same for members; 5) What providers need to do to prepare; and, 6) Tools and resources to help guide members through the transition. For more information, see DHCS' Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service Transition webpage. DHCS is also developing additional implementation guidance for patients receiving ongoing or complex treatment, which is expected later this year.
LAO Final Report on the State's 2026-2027 Budget	Each year, at the end of the legislative session, the Legislative Analyst's Office releases "The California Spending Plan" report to summarize the annual state budget. They provide an overview of the 2026-27 budget package (as of the end of June), give a brief description of how the budget process unfolded, and then highlight the major features of the budget approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. You can access their report here. They will be issuing separate, more detailed reports by subject area, including health and human services, and I will share those as soon as they are released.

(more)

Blue Shield Webinar on Immunizations	Health Plan Blue Shield will be hosting a webinar to share details on several multi-stakeholder efforts that are underway to understand and improve vaccine data. The webinar <i>Strengthening Immunization Reporting: Smarter Data, Better Outcomes</i> – is scheduled for Thursday, October 8 from 12:00-1:00 pm (PT). The panelists will discuss progress made through the <u>Public Health for All Californians Together (PHACT) Coalition</u>, as well as other opportunities to improve vaccine data, including at the clinical practice level. Additionally, the webinar will explore how payers, clinicians, and public health agencies can better use vaccine data to improve individual and population health outcomes. In an era of declining vaccine rates, according to Blue Shield, it is critical to understand what factors are contributing to this trend and how to reverse it. They state that California’s publicly available immunization datasets are incomplete, creating challenges to understanding true vaccination rates and identifying approaches to improve those rates. The panelists will offer solutions to improve vaccine data, reporting, and use.
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