

Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

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November 12, 2025

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CMS Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule (CMS-0057-F)

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to the Medi-Cal and Medicare lines of business.

What you need to know:

Recent legislative and regulatory changes will impact claims reimbursement and prior authorization processes for California health plans and providers. This bulletin summarizes the key provisions, implications, and important dates for CMS Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule (CMS-0057-F).

Applies to: Medicare Advantage organizations, Medicaid and CHIP programs (fee-for-service and managed care), and Qualified Health Plans on Federally Facilitated Exchanges.

Key Provisions:

- Mandates implementation of APIs (FHIR® standards) to improve health information interoperability and streamline prior authorization (PA) processes:
 - Patient Access API: Enables patient access to claims, clinical, and PA data.
 - Provider Access API: Allows in-network providers to retrieve patient data from payers.
 - Payer-to-Payer API: Facilitates data transfer when patients switch payers.
 - Prior Authorization API: Supports PA requirement checks, documentation, submission, and decision receipt.
- Urgent PA requests must be decided within 72 hours; standard requests within 7 calendar days.
- Payers must provide specific reasons for PA denials.
- Annual public reporting of prior authorization metrics is required.

Provider Action

Stay tuned for further guidance on “clean claim” criteria and APL implementation standards.



Deadlines:

- January 1, 2026: PA process requirements and reporting metrics become effective.
- January 1, 2027: Full API implementation deadline for impacted payers.

Implications:

- Reduces administrative burden and increases transparency for patients and providers.
- Requires significant technology and workflow updates for payers.
- Improves data access and PA decision timelines for providers and patients.
- May influence broader industry standards beyond directly impacted payers.

Comparison & Relevance

- AB 3275 focuses on timely claims reimbursement and grievance processes for California health plans.
- CMS 0057 F targets interoperability, data exchange, and prior authorization for government health programs.
- Both aim to improve administrative efficiency: AB 3275 by expediting claim payments, CMS 0057 F by streamlining prior authorization and data access.
- California entities subject to both laws must ensure compliance with each set of requirements.
- Key implementation dates: AB 3275 provisions begin in 2026; CMS 0057 F milestones are in 2026 and 2027.

What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Relations Representative below.

Service County Area	Provider Relations Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
Los Angeles County	Clemente Arias Elias Gomez Velma Castillo Anita White Anisha Brar	562-233-1753 562-723-9760 626-721-3089 310-654-4832 N/A	Clemente.Arias@molinahealthcare.com Elias.Gomez@molinahealthcare.com Velma.Castillo@molinahealthcare.com Princess.White@molinahealthcare.com Anisha.Brar@molinahealthcare.com
Los Angeles / Orange County	Maria Guimoye	562-783-0005	Maria.Guimoye@molinahealthcare.com
Sacramento County	Johonna Eshalomi	916-268-1418	Johonna.Eshalomi@molinahealthcare.com
San Bernardino County	Luana McIver	909-454-4247	Luana.Mciver@molinahealthcare.com
San Bernardino / Riverside County	Vanessa Lomeli	909-419-3026	Vanessa.Lomeli2@molinahealthcare.com
Riverside County	Patricia Melendez	951-447-7585	Patricia.Melendez@molinahealthcare.com
San Diego / Imperial County	Brigitte Maldonado	760-421-1466	Brigitte.Maldonado@molinahealthcare.com

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Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.

Molina Healthcare of California: 200 Oceangate, Suite 100, Long Beach, CA 90802

California Facilities (Hospitals, SNFs, CBAS, ICF/DD & ASC Providers)	Facility Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
Los Angeles County	Melessa Belcher	714-813-8522	Melessa.Belcher@molinahealthcare.com
Imperial, San Diego & Sacramento	Brittney Aguilar	916-216-9882	Brittney.Aguilar@molinahealthcare.com
Riverside & San Bernardino	MiMi Howard	562-455-3754	Smimi.Howard@molinahealthcare.com

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