

MEDICATION COVERAGE POLICY



PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

POLICY	Non-Covered Benefits	LAST REVIEW	3/10/2026
THERAPEUTIC CLASS	Miscellaneous	REVIEW HISTORY	3/25, 3/24, 3/23, 7/22, 9/21,
LOB AFFECTED	Medi-Cal/Medicare	(MONTH/YEAR)	9/20, 9/19, 2/19, 2/18, 2/17, 2/16

This policy has been developed through review of medical literature, consideration of medical necessity, generally accepted medical practice standards, and approved by the Health Plan of San Joaquin/Mountain Valley Health Plan (Health Plan) Pharmacy and Therapeutic Advisory Committee.

Effective 1/1/2022, the Pharmacy Benefit is regulated by Medi-Cal Rx. Please visit <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/> for portal access, formulary details, pharmacy network information, and updates to the pharmacy benefit including any exclusions.

Effective 1/1/2026, MedImpact administers Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits for Health Plan. Please visit <https://www.hpsj.com/d-snp-member-materials/> for formulary details, pharmacy network information, and updates to the pharmacy benefit including any exclusions. Please note that some Over the Counter (OTC) Items are covered through the supplemental benefit OTC program as described in the member handbook. Please visit the following link for the searchable formulary: <https://client.formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteCode=0143685768>

All medical claims require that an NDC is also submitted with the claim. If a physician administered medication has a specific assigned CPT code, that code must be billed with the correlating NDC. If there is not a specific CPT code available for a physician administered medication, the use of unclassified CPT codes is appropriate when billed with the correlating NDC.

OVERVIEW

Per Title XIX, Social Security Act, Section 1927(d)(2) the following drugs or classes of drugs, or their medical uses, may be excluded from coverage or otherwise restricted:

- a. Agents when used for anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain
- b. Agents when used to promote fertility
- c. Agents when used for cosmetic purposes or hair growth
- d. Agents when used for the symptomatic relief of cough and colds
- e. Prescription vitamins and mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations.
- f. Over the counter drugs
- g. Agents when used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction (ED)

A medication is considered to be a “cosmetic agent” when:

- Used for hair growth or hair removal;
- Used for depigmenting or whitening (melasma, acanthosis nigricans);

- Used for photo-aging (wrinkles) or photo-damaged (solar lentigines, age spots);
- Used for stretch marks;

In general, if an agent is intended for beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, without treating a diagnosed underlying medical condition, this treatment will be considered "cosmetic."

Examples of cosmetic agents include:

- Rogaine
- Propecia
- Latisse
- Vaniqa
- Hydroquinone products
- Tretinoin (when used for wrinkles or scars)
- Topical or Injectable Corticosteroids (when used for hair growth)

Additionally, per the Welfare and Institutions Code 14132(d)(2) and the Social Services Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2005 (HR 3971), Title II, Section 202, erectile dysfunction agents are also not a covered benefit. Agents considered for use in erectile dysfunction are Viagra, Cialis, and Levitra.

☞ REFERENCES

- Social Services Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2005 (HR 3971), Title II, Section 202
- Title XIX, Social Security Act, Section 1927(d)(2)
- Welfare and Institutions Code 14132(d)(2)

☞ REVIEW & EDIT HISTORY

Document Changes	Reference	Date	P&T Chairman
Creation of Policy	Medi-Cal EOC 2011.pdf	2011	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS
Update to Policy	2013 Medi_Cal EOC.pdf	2013	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS
Review of Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy – Miscellaneous – Cosmetic Agents 2016-02.docx	2/2016	Johnathan Yeh, PharmD
Review of Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy – Miscellaneous – Cosmetic Agents 2017-02.docx	2/2017	Johnathan Yeh, PharmD
Review of Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy – Miscellaneous – Cosmetic Agents 2018-02.docx	2/2018	Johnathan Yeh, PharmD
Review of Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy – Miscellaneous – Cosmetic Agents 2019-02.docx	2/2019	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy – Miscellaneous – Cosmetic Agents 2019-05.docx	5/2019	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	9/2019	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	9/2020	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	9/2021	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	7/2022	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Update to Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	3/2023	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Update of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	3/2024	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	3/2025	Matthew Garrett, PharmD
Review of Policy	Non-Covered Benefits	3/2026	Matthew Garrett, PharmD

Note: All changes are approved by the Health Plan P&T Committee before incorporation into the utilization policy