



PHARMACY
access
partnership

*A Center
of the Public
Health Institute*

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Dear Pharmacy Access Partnership Friends and Colleagues,

Often victories are made with a lot of fanfare. I am writing to share an important recent victory that flew under the radar without any media attention.

We recently heard from a pharmacist participating in California's EC pharmacy access program, in a small town in Siskiyou County. He called to tell us that the Medi-Cal claim that he filed for a pharmacist-initiated prescription for Plan B – for a 17-year-old client – was rejected. Upon initial investigation, we were told that Medi-Cal coverage of Plan B was restricted to females 18 years of age and older (effective January 1, 2007).

This was the first instance that we had heard about Medi-Cal denying reimbursement for a Plan B prescription based on age. Pharmacy Access Partnership immediately contacted Medi-Cal's Electronic Data Services (EDS) to voice our concern that this restriction would impact countless young women in California. After some discussion between Medi-Cal EDS and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), the policy staff at CDHS determined that a technical oversight occurred that caused this inadvertent restriction to females under age 18 for Medi-Cal coverage of prescription Plan B.

Thanks to the pharmacist who alerted us to this problem, we were able to act quickly and advocate that the restriction be removed within a day of first learning about it. And thanks to the staff at EDS and CDHS who were able to remove the restriction to allow the claims to process correctly, without imposing an age limit for Plan B prescription reimbursement.

For pharmacists in California: all Plan B prescription reimbursements submitted to Medi-Cal – regardless of the woman's age – will continue to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal. This includes any claims that may have been rejected in the past couple of months. Please spread the word if you know of someone whose Plan B prescription claim has been rejected by Medi-Cal; they may be resubmitted for reimbursement.

For more information about Medi-Cal coverage of Plan B visit <http://www.pharmacyaccess.org/pdfs/PlanBOnMediCal.pdf>.

All the best,

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