



Health Care Practice Tip - December 2020

The following new laws which help health consumers are effective January 1, 2021, unless otherwise noted, [plus AB 2520 FAQ:](#)

AB 732 (Bonta) improves screening, care, treatment for pregnant people who are incarcerated. Requires jails and prisons to provide menstrual supplies at no cost.

AB 2077 (Ting) allows pharmacists to continue to provide sterile syringes as part of the state's approach to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C as well as decriminalizes the possession of syringes for personal use.

AB 2118 (Kalra) requires California-regulated health plans in the individual and small group market to report rates to their regulator starting in October 2021.

AB 2218 (Santiago) establishes the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund for grants to transgender-led nonprofit organizations and medical providers that provide gender-conforming health care services or have an established partnership with a transgender-led nonprofit organization, to fund programs focused on coordinating trans-inclusive medical care, behavioral health care, and social services. Funds have not yet been appropriated.

AB 2276 (Reyes) implements the California Auditor's recommendations to increase blood lead level screenings of children in the Medi-Cal program and updates the factors for evaluating risk of lead poisoning.

AB 2520 (Chiu) requires providers to complete public benefit form, clarifies that legal aid advocates can access medical records without cost for patient regarding eligibility for public benefit program, and expands access to free medical records to include immigrants who are survivors of crime or domestic violence, CAPI, and government housing assistance programs. [See our FAQ for additional details.](#)

SB 803 (Beall) establishes a statewide certification program for peer support specialists and provides the structure needed to maximize the federal match for peer services under Medi-Cal

by July 2022. DHCS has shared it will hold stakeholder meetings and release draft program guidelines in 2021.

SB 852 (Pan) requires the Health and Human Services Agency to enter into partnerships to produce or distribute generic prescription drugs. By July 2023, requires the Agency to submit a report to assess the feasibility and advantages of directly manufacturing and selling generic prescription drugs.

SB 855 (Wiener) requires a health plan to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions.

SB 1237 (Dodd) limits the physician supervision requirement for nurse midwives to improve birth equity outcomes.

Western Center's office will be closed December 14 to January 1. Happy Holidays!

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