
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2565 (Wallis) - Medi-Cal: pharmacist services: reporting

Version: April 23, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 15, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2565 would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to issue guidance clarifying Medi-Cal managed care plan obligations to cover pharmacist services, as specified.

Fiscal Impact: The DHCS estimates costs of \$478,000 (\$239,000 General Fund and \$239,000 federal funds) in 2027-28 and \$451,000 (\$226,000 General Fund and \$225,000 federal funds) ongoing thereafter for state administration.

Background: State law establishes pharmacist services as a Medi-Cal benefit, subject to federal approval, DHCS protocols, and utilization controls. Pharmacist services include the following:

- Furnishing travel medications;
- Furnishing naloxone hydrochloride;
- Furnishing self-administered hormonal contraception;
- Initiating and administering immunizations;
- Providing tobacco cessation counseling and furnishing nicotine replacement therapy;
- Initiating and furnishing preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP); and,
- Providing medication therapy management pharmacist services in conjunction with the dispensing of qualified specialty drugs.

Current law requires a pharmacist to be enrolled as an ordering, referring, and prescribing provider under the Medi-Cal program prior to rendering a pharmacist service that is submitted by a Medi-Cal pharmacy provider for reimbursement. Medi-Cal coverage of pharmacist services may be provided through fee-for-service Medi-Cal or through Medi-Cal managed care plans.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require DHCS to issue guidance clarifying Medi-Cal managed care plan obligations to cover pharmacist services, as specified.
- Require DHCS to update its model evidence of coverage to explicitly include coverage of pharmacist services, as specified.
- Require that if DHCS determines that a Medi-Cal managed care plan has failed to comply with existing requirements related to coverage of pharmacist services, the

department must take appropriate corrective action pursuant to its existing authority, including enforcement actions and the imposition of sanctions, as appropriate.

Related Legislation: AB 2571 (Flora) would make changes to reimbursement policies for pharmacist services. The bill is scheduled to be heard June 15, 2026 in this committee.

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