

New Laws Enacted in 2006: Selected California Legislation

Prescription Drug Purchasing

Prescription Drug Website AB 2877 (Frommer)

Requires the state to establish a website that compares prices at California pharmacies of 150 commonly prescribed drugs, and offers information and links on options for obtaining medications at discounted prices. Also requires the Department of General Services to regularly share drug pricing and purchasing strategy information with the University of California and the Public Employees' Retirement System, and to report annually on state government activities to achieve drug cost savings.

Assembly Majority Leader Frommer's [AB 2877 Press Release](#) is available. See also Medpin's final [October 2005 legislative summary](#).

California Discount Prescription Drug Program AB 2911 (Nuñez and Perata)

Creates a new program for Californians with no drug coverage and high medical expenses or low (below 300% poverty level) family incomes. Requires the state to attempt to negotiate specified discounts with drug manufacturers. If these discounts are not achieved within three years, Medi-Cal may use pre-authorization requirements to encourage greater drug company participation. The state may also work with drug companies to provide a single point of entry for their voluntary assistance programs.

Governor Schwarzenegger's [AB 2911 press release](#) is available. This new law builds on legislation and two ballot initiatives from 2005. For information on the provisions of Propositions 78 and 79, plus relevant legislation SB 19 (Ortiz) and AB 75 (Frommer), see [Medpin's report](#) and also [October 2005 legislative summary](#).

Other New Laws of Interest

Electronic Prescription Information Remuneration AB 225 (Negrete McLeod)

Allows specific healing arts practitioners to receive nonmonetary remuneration (such as hardware or software) used solely for electronic prescription information relating to Medicare Part D.

Notifying Patients of Rights Regarding Filling of Prescriptions AB 2583 (Nation)

Requires a pharmacy's posted consumer notice to include a description of current law regarding rights of a patient presenting a prescription, and responsibilities of a pharmacist who does not fill that prescription.

Medi-Cal Injectable Drugs AB 2631 (Laird)

For injectable drug products not administered by a patient, requires the Department of Health Services to publish a medical benefit drug utilization policy within 180 days of FDA approval, and to evaluate the necessity of utilization controls and publish all such controls in specified documents.

Medicare Part D Implementation

Emergency Assistance for Medi-Cal and Medicare Dual Eligibles AB 132 (Nuñez)

Appropriates \$150 million through February 11, 2006 to reimburse pharmacies for dual eligible prescription expenses arising from specified Part D transition implementation problems. **Chaptered Jan. 20.**

Extending Emergency Assistance for Dual Eligibles SB 1233 (Perata)

Authorizes extension until May 16, 2006 of the state's program to reimburse pharmacies unable to fill dual eligibles' prescriptions due to Part D transition problems. **Chaptered Feb. 6.**

Part D payment savings SB 912 (Ducheny)

Appropriates \$22.5 million state funds to eliminate 5% reduction in Medi-Cal provider payments. Governor attributes as funding source the savings from recalculation of California's Part D federal payments. **Chaptered Feb. 21.**

Medi-Cal Emergency Drug Benefits AB 813 (Nunez)

Requires Medi-Cal to provide emergency benefits until January 31, 2007 for dual eligibles when specified problems arise with their Part D coverage, and appropriates corresponding funding. **Chaptered May 15.**

Resolution Regarding Medicare Enrollment Deadlines AJR 40 (Chan and Berg)

Memorializes the U.S. Congress and President to enact H.R. 3861, to give Medicare beneficiaries the time to make an informed decision and protect them from losing their retiree health benefits. **Filed June 1.**

For a look at efforts this year to create state support for Part D co-pays now required of Medi-Cal patients, see ["Legislation on Drug Benefit Assistance Stalls."](#)

Medpin works with safety net providers to improve access to medicine and pharmaceutical care for people in need.

Medpin is pleased to acknowledge support from The California Wellness Foundation for activities such as this legislative summary.

For more information on legislative language and history, see <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

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