



JENNIFER KENT  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

July 22, 2016

CCS Information Notice: 16-08

TO: ALL LOCAL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN SERVICES (CCS) PROGRAM AND GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS PROGRAM (GHPP) STAFF, CCS MEDICAL CONSULTANTS, COUNTY MEDICAL STAFF, AND SYSTEMS OF CARE DIVISION (SCD) STAFF

SUBJECT: SODIUM CHLORIDE 0.9% (NORMAL SALINE) FLUSH SYRINGE PRODUCTS BECOME A MEDICAL SUPPLY BENEFIT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2016

The purpose of this information notice is to communicate that effective August 1, 2016, the Medi-Cal Program (including the CCS Program and GHPP) will reclassify sodium chloride 0.9% (normal saline) syringe flushes to be a medical supply benefit item, instead of a drug benefit product. The change is due to the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) classifying these products to be Class II medical devices, intended to be used only for the flushing of indwelling vascular access devices. These products will continue to be billable by the product's 11-digit Medi-Cal billing number.

In the Children's Medical Services Network (CMS Net), medical supplies billable by an 11-digit code require a separate authorization. Similar to heparin flushes, diabetic test strips, lancet, and insulin syringe/needles, normal saline syringe flushes will now require separate authorization.

Pharmacy providers can no longer claim for normal saline syringe flush products with a Service Code Grouping (SCG) Service Authorization Request (SAR).

If you have any questions, please contact Edan Lum, Pharm D., Pharmaceutical Consultant, at (916) 322-1543 or (415) 557-1058, or via e-mail at [edan.lum@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:edan.lum@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PATRICIA MCCLELLAND**

Patricia McClelland, Chief  
Systems of Care Division