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## **Fee-for-Service Temporary Reinstatement of Acetaminophen, and Cough and Cold Medicines for Adults**

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The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) continues to closely monitor the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and provide updates and guidance to Medi-Cal providers in response to concerns or questions related to the Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS) and Family PACT pharmacy benefit. To that end, effectively immediately, the following temporary new policy is instituted:

### **Temporary reinstatement of adult acetaminophen and cough and cold products as benefits**

Pursuant to the federally approved State Plan Amendment 20-0024, nonlegend adult acetaminophen-containing products and nonlegend cough and cold products, selected by the department, are temporarily reinstated as covered benefits of the Medi-Cal program, without requirement of an approved Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) for fee-for-service Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Primary symptoms of COVID 19 involve pain, aches, fever, and significant cough and congestion. The preferred treatment for all of these symptoms are over-the-counter fever reducers, analgesics and cough/cold products. These treatments are often the safest, most effective, and least costly alternatives for the population most at risk of both contracting the virus and subsequently experiencing the most severe symptoms.

This temporary change will remain in place until further notice.

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DHCS continues to closely monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation and will issue further reminders and guidance as appropriate. In addition, Medi-Cal providers are encouraged to monitor the [DHCS COVID-19 Response](#) website for additional COVID-19 related changes and updates.

Questions may be directed to the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (except holidays).