



BRADLEY P. GILBERT, MD, MPP  
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

## Information Regarding the Use of Subcutaneous Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate During the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency

On March 23, 2020, DHCS received [approval](#) of a federal waiver allowing specific flexibilities related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE). Pursuant to the waiver approval, and to facilitate compliance with state and federal guidelines for sheltering in place and physical distancing, DHCS will temporarily allow for pharmacy dispensing of **subcutaneous depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA-SQ)** directly to the beneficiary for self-administration at home [emphasis added]. This would be in addition to current Medi-Cal policy that allows administration by a health care professional, and it would be at the discretion of Medi-Cal providers to offer this alternative to their patients. Self-administration of DMPA-SQ would be at the option of the Medi-Cal beneficiary and should involve individualized decision-making and discussion between Medi-Cal providers and the beneficiary as to whether this alternative route of administration is appropriate. This temporary policy change is effective immediately and remains in effect until further notice.

DMPA-SQ (brand name Depo-subQ Provera 104) is a progestin-only, aqueous suspension (water-based) injectable contraceptive. DMPA-SQ is effective for three months. Due to the COVID-19 PHE, DHCS is issuing the following guidance relative to temporary flexibilities in dispensing/administration policies governing the use of DMPA-SQ:

- DMPA-SQ is temporarily added as a pharmacy benefit, without requirement of a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR).
- Medical providers may assess the medical need and prescribe DMPA-SQ through telemedicine, thus avoiding the need for direct contact between patient and prescriber.
- Training and patient education related to assessment of pregnancy status prior to use, techniques for self-administration, potential risks, disposal of the syringe in a sharps container, and requirements for follow up for appropriate medical assessments will be the responsibility of the medical provider prescribing the medication.
- The prescription may be dispensed directly to the beneficiary for home use. Provision may be done through mail order or home delivery in order to minimize person-to person contact.
- Pharmacy claims must be billed using the National Drug Code (NDC) of the drug. Reimbursement will be based on the current rate on file plus the professional dispensing fee.