

Department of Health Care Services

NOTICE OF RESCISSION

**Medical Director's Prescribing Order: "COVID19 Testing Accessibility for Over the Counter, FDA Authorized, Self-Administered COVID19 Antigen Tests for All Eligible MediCal Beneficiaries"
Originally issued: January 31, 2022**

Effective immediately, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) hereby rescinds in full the *Medical Director's Prescribing Order: COVID19 Testing Accessibility for Over-the Counter, FDA-Authorized, Self-Administered COVID19 Antigen Tests for All Eligible Medi-Cal Beneficiaries* (the Order), signed by Karen E. Mark, MD, PhD, on January 31, 2022.

This order was originally issued pursuant to Title 22, California Code of Regulations, section 51320, and authorized pharmacists to dispense and bill Medi-Cal for Over-The Counter (OTC), FDA-authorized, self-administered COVID19 antigen test kits to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries under expanded emergency authority. Considering the end of the federal COVID19 Public Health Emergency as well as broader changes in the health care delivery landscape, DHCS is rescinding the Order as it is no longer necessary.

With the rescission of this Order, pharmacists may no longer rely on the Medical Director's January 31, 2022, prescribing authority for the ordering of OTC COVID19 antigen test kits. Pharmacists must instead follow current Medi-Cal Rx policy, applicable state and federal law, and any ongoing DHCS guidance regarding coverage and billing for COVID19 testing supplies. DHCS will continue to monitor federal and state policy and issue updated guidance as needed.

"Original signed by Karen Mark"

Karen E. Mark, MD, PhD
Medical Director
California Department of Health Care
Services

June 3, 2026
Date