

Medi-Cal Contract Drug Advisory Committee Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Medi-Cal Contract Drug Advisory Committee (MCDAC)?

The MCDAC is a committee established by, and defined in California state law (Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 14105.4) to provide written recommendations to the DHCS Director as to the addition of any drug or deletion of any drug from the Contract Drugs List (CDL). The Committee consists of Pharmacists, Physicians, representatives from schools of pharmacy or pharmacologists, and Medi-Cal beneficiaries. MCDAC members serve at the discretion of the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Director.

DHCS is increasing total MCDAC membership to a maximum of ten; comprised of three physicians, three pharmacists, two or three representatives from schools of pharmacy, and one or two Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Four of the ten positions (two physicians and two pharmacists) are reserved for Medi-Cal managed care plan (MCP) representatives.

2. Are MCDAC members considered employees of DHCS or are they able to represent DHCS?

MCDAC members are appointed at the discretion of the DHCS Director. Members are not considered employees of DHCS, nor do they represent DHCS in any capacity.

3. Does DHCS provide a stipend/compensation for serving on the MCDAC?

DHCS does NOT provide a stipend/compensation for serving on the MCDAC. DHCS will reimburse members for expenses deemed necessary if DHCS requests their presence at a public hearing.

4. How are MCDAC members notified which drugs are being considered for addition or deletion?

Quarterly, MCDAC members are provided via e-mail a list of drugs that DHCS is considering for addition to the CDL. Drugs that are being considered for deletion from the CDL require a public hearing. If a public hearing is to occur for the deletion of drugs from the CDL, MCDAC members will be notified when that will occur.

5. How often are MCDAC members required to meet or travel?

Currently, there is no requirement for MCDAC to meet in order to make written recommendations to DHCS for the addition of drugs to the CDL. Travel may be necessary when a public hearing is scheduled for deletion of drugs from the CDL. MCDAC members will be notified the date of the public hearing and MCDAC members will be reimbursed for any expenses deemed necessary by DHCS.

6. How long is a member's term on the MCDAC?

Except for members representing Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, who will serve for two-year terms, MCDAC members are expected to commit to three years of service. As positions on MCDAC come up for renewal, or as vacancies arise, new members will be recruited.

7. Does the MCDAC hold meetings?

Historically, the MCDAC does not hold meetings in person or virtually. MCDAC members correspond with DHCS individually through written recommendations via e-mail.

8. Does DHCS prefer specialist or general practitioners?

DHCS has no preference as to whether a physician is a specialist or a general practitioner, only that they are actively serving the Medi-Cal population.

9. Does DHCS prefer pharmacists that work in a clinical setting?

DHCS has no preference as to whether a pharmacist works in a clinical setting or retail setting, only that they are actively serving the Medi-Cal population.

10. How does DHCS utilize the recommendations that MCDAC members provide?

The MCDAC serves DHCS in an advisory role. DHCS considers MCDAC members' comments and recommendations as part of the overall process of reviewing drugs for addition to, or deletion from the CDL.

11. How will MCDAC members notify DHCS of their recommendation?

MCDAC members will fill out forms provided by DHCS with their recommendations based on the Medi-Cal population they serve, and the five (5) criteria (Efficacy, Safety, Essential Need, Misuse Potential, and Cost) outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14105.39(c). Additional comments will be reviewed as well.

12. Does DHCS have a list, or release names and/or contact information of current MCDAC members?

No, DHCS does not list or release names or contact information of MCDAC members.

13. Are MCDAC members allowed to meet with drug manufacturers or other practitioners to discuss drugs that are being considered for addition/deletion to the CDL?

MCDAC members are allowed to meet with manufacturers or consult with other practitioners to obtain additional information, such as studies, dossiers, etc. on drugs to assist them in making recommendations to DHCS. MCDAC members are reminded of their duty to provide fair, impartial and independent recommendations to DHCS. Accordingly, DHCS urges members to refuse lunches, gifts, etc., from manufacturers. If a member does accept any kind of gift, or has a financial interest with a manufacturer, these things must be self-reported to DHCS to be evaluated for potential bias.