

DATE: May 27, 2025

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No: I 25-14

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR MINOR CONSENT

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to provide updates on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual (MEPM) and other resources for Minor Consent Services as a result of legislative bills [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 665](#) (Chapter 338, Statutes of 2023) and [AB 816](#) (Chapter 456, Statutes of 2023)

Background

California Family Code provides that a minor may, without parental consent, receive services related to sexual assault, pregnancy and pregnancy-related services, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, and outpatient mental health treatment and counseling.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) categorizes minor consent services by age as follows:

UNDER AGE 12:

- pregnancy and pregnancy-related services
- family planning services
- sexual assault services

The above listed service which a minor may receive on their own will be referred to as "limited scope Minor Consent Services."

MEPM Updates

The MEPM has been updated to reflect changes from AB 665 and AB 816 to the Minor Consent policy. These changes include links for the Minor Consent applications and updated guidance regarding minor privacy.

Additional information related to Minor Consent Services can be found in the [MEPM Article 4V](#), the [BHIN 24-046](#), and the Minor Consent [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

To ensure confidentiality, minors accessing limited scope Medi-Cal Minor Consent

Services will be assigned to a separate Medi-Cal case from the parent or guardian, and the minor's Social Security Number must not be used. Outpatient mental health treatment or counseling services provided through limited scope Medi-Cal are confidential, except to the extent that parent or guardian involvement is required by law.

State law and regulations on Minor Consent Services prevent county welfare departments from contacting the parents of a child applying for Minor Consent Services. The Child Abuse Reporting Law requires the county welfare department to report suspected child abuse to child protection agencies, law enforcement agencies, and agencies responsible for investigation of cases involving dependent children. County welfare workers should make reports as required by Penal Code section 11166.

AB 665 - Mental Health Treatment Requirement

Prior to the signing of AB 665, state law allowed a minor 12 years of age or older to consent to outpatient mental health treatment, based on the diagnosis by a mental health professional and the minor's maturity. Additionally, the minor must either:

- a) be the alleged victim of incest or child abuse, or
- b) present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to themselves or others without mental health treatment or counseling.

With the signing of AB 665, the additional requirements of the minor needing to be the alleged victim of incest or child abuse or present a danger of serious harm to self or to others to receive mental health treatment, have been removed. A minor who is 12 years of age or older may consent to outpatient mental health treatment or counseling, or to residential shelter services, without meeting the additional requirements. After consulting with the minor, the treating mental health professional will determine whether involving the minor's parent or guardian would be inappropriate.

AB 816 - Medication For Opioid Use Disorder

The signing of AB 816 allows a minor 16 years of age or older, without parent or guardian consent, to receive Buprenorphine as a replacement narcotic abuse treatment, also known as replacement narcotic therapy (RNT), in a narcotic treatment program (NTP). AB 816 also allows a licensed physician to utilize their clinical judgement in determining which medication would best serve the individual's needs, and not limit it to just Buprenorphine.

For additional information on Minor Consent Services, please contact XXX

Original Signed By

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