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Inland Empire Health Plan

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

October 13, 2021

New DHCS DUR Board Educational Article

IEHP reviews the DHCS DUR Board Educational Articles regularly for important information we can pass on to our Provider Network. From the DUR Board Website: *The purpose of this educational intervention component of DUR is to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of prescribing and dispensing practices for Medi-Cal recipients. Educational interventions include ongoing dissemination of information through the Medi-Cal provider bulletin process about clinically important, drug-specific therapy problems.*

Disclaimer: These articles are the result of analyses carried out by the Global Medi-Cal DUR Program and are not official policies of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

The newest article, entitled [2021 Immunization Updates: COVID-19, Influenza, and Meningococcal Disease](#) was published on September 30, 2021. Please see a preview of the first page below; the full article has six (6) pages. To reduce paper usage, the article may be accessed online here: <https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/edarticles.aspx>

September 30, 2021



2021 Immunization Updates: COVID-19, Influenza, and Meningococcal Disease

Each year, the California Medi-Cal Drug Use Review (DUR) program issues an annual summary of updates on immunization guidelines, products, and/or research in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch. For reference, the recommended immunization schedules for 2021 in the United States can be accessed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website:

- [Persons 18 years of age or younger](#)
- [Persons 19 years of age or older](#)

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the vaccines currently available to prevent infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- Discuss strategies for improving (COVID-19) vaccination rates and vaccine confidence
- Review updated Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for COVID-19, influenza, and meningococcal disease vaccines

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COVID-19 Vaccine General Recommendations

COVID-19 vaccination is currently recommended for all people 12 years of age or older to prevent infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. During 2020, the following three COVID-19 vaccine products were US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized and are recommended for use in the U.S:

- A messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine, BNT162b2 by Pfizer-BioNTech (for people 12 years of age or older) – a two-dose primary series, separated by 21 days
- An mRNA vaccine, mRNA-1273 by Moderna (for people 18 years of age or older) – a two-dose primary series, separated by 28 days
- A recombinant vector vaccine, Ad26.CoV2.S by Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (for people 18 years of age or older) – single dose

Updated Article: Please note, there has been an update to the DHCS article [Drug Safety Communication: Voluntary Recall of Varenicline \(Chantix\) Lots Containing Nitrosamine](https://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/Articles/dured_31302_02.pdf), which we sent out September 16, 2021. The updated article may be found here: https://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/Articles/dured_31302_02.pdf

For questions or comments, please call us at (909) 890-2049.

Sincerely,
IEHP Pharmaceutical Services