



For Immediate Release
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Health Centers Request Delay in Pharmacy Transition from Newsom Administration

Sacramento – The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) has sent a letter to Governor Newsom requesting a delay in the 340b pharmacy program transition currently expected to take place on April 1, 2021. Community health centers (CHCs) are on the frontlines in their communities providing testing, treatment and vaccinations for COVID-19 and are asking for the delay in order to focus on the needs of their communities in the midst of this pandemic. The Newsom administration has already delayed the transition once due to the impact of COVID-19 and health centers believe another delay is necessary. California community health centers are requesting a delay until January 2022.

“We understand the Newsom Administration’s desire to transition the pharmacy benefit from Medi-Cal managed care to FFS and acknowledge the amount of time and energy that has been committed to a successful transition thus far, but we believe that both the state and the health care delivery system should remain focused on the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Carmela Castellano-Garcia, President and CEO of CPCA. “CPCA and our members have been requesting such a delay since the start of this pandemic and were glad when the initial delay was implemented late last year. We feel that this additional delay will give everyone the time and space to focus on what must be done to end the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“When Governor Newsom announced his intentions to transition the pharmacy program to Medi-Cal Fee For Service in 2019, the healthcare system was in a much different place. CHCs are currently working tirelessly to ensure that their patients and communities are vaccinated, despite the huge toll it is taking on them. CHCs are taking a huge financial hit, are dealing with ongoing workforce shortages and vaccine supply issues throughout the state,” continued Castellano-Garcia. “The pharmacy transition is an additional burden that will take time and focus away from where it is needed most – on their patients and communities.”

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About the California Primary Care Association

The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) represents approximately 1,370 non-profit community health centers who provide care to more than 7.4 million patients each year. Community health centers (CHCs) are committed to providing comprehensive, high quality health care to everyone who walks through our doors, in a compassionate and culturally sensitive manner. CHCs include federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and FQHC look-a-likes, community clinics, free clinics, rural health clinics, migrant health centers, Indian health service clinics, and family planning clinics. Services include comprehensive primary and preventive care, women’s health, dental, mental health, substance use treatment, health education, outreach and enrollment, pharmacy and more.