

**From:** DMHC Licensing eFiling

**Subject:** APL 22-016 – National Infant Formula Shortage

**Date:** Friday, June 10, 2022 10:57 AM

**Attachments:** APL 22-016 – National Infant Formula Shortage (6.10.22).pdf

Dear Health Plan Representative,

Please see attached, All Plan Letter (APL) 22-016 – National Infant Formula Shortage. This APL is to inform that health care providers may need to quickly change the type, size or brand of formula they have been prescribing to ensure enrollees have access to medically necessary treatment.

Thank you.



Gavin Newsom, Governor  
State of California  
Health and Human Services Agency  
**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE**  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-324-8176 | Fax: 916-255-5241  
[www.HealthHelp.ca.gov](http://www.HealthHelp.ca.gov)

## ALL PLAN LETTER

**DATE:** June 10, 2022  
**TO:** All Full-Service Health Care Service Plans<sup>1</sup>  
**FROM:** Sarah Ream  
Chief Counsel, DMHC  
**SUBJECT:** APL 22-016 – National Infant Formula Shortage

---

The United States is experiencing a shortage of infant formula, which is making it very difficult for patients and caregivers to locate regular (non-medical) formula, as well as specialty or enteral formula for infants, children and adults with special needs. As a result, health care providers may need to quickly change the type, size or brand of formula they have been prescribing to ensure enrollees have access to medically necessary treatment.

To the extent a health plan covers enteral or specialty formula for its enrollees, plans must ensure prior authorization or utilization management requirements do not impede a provider's ability to change or modify an enrollee's formula, including when a physician must change the type, size or brand of formula based on availability. The DMHC encourages plans to treat such requests in an expeditious manner.

Additionally, Medi-Cal Managed Care plans should consult with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) regarding changes DHCS has made to prior authorization requirements for enteral formula during this time.

If you have questions regarding this APL, please contact your health plan's assigned reviewer in the OPL.

For more information regarding the current situation and additional resources for beneficiaries, please visit the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [online resource hub](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> This APL does not apply to Medicare Advantage products or specialized health care products.