To: IEHP Medi-Cal PCPs and Specialists
From: Pharmacy, Provider Relations
Date: July 22, 2022
Subject: Inappropriate Treatment Delays and Denials for HIV PrEP and PEP

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has recently learned of inappropriate treatment delays and denials for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) used to prevent seroconversion to HIV. These incidents have negatively impacted beneficiary health.

To prevent future delays, denials, and shared misinformation, please be advised that HIV medications for both PrEP and PEP are a Medi-Cal benefit when deemed medically necessary.

These medications do not require a PA when used as a preventative regimen for persons at risk of acquiring HIV PrEP or for PEP treatment. DHCS and IEHP want to ensure timely access to these critical medications.

Although there may be a Code 1 (diagnosis code) restriction for HIV medications, pharmacists are encouraged to override this using Submission Clarification Code 7 within the scope of their professional discretion, and/or consider suspected exposure to HIV as an HIV diagnosis for the purposes of claims submission.

Prescribers should provide diagnosis information to pharmacies when needed. Diagnosis codes indicating potential exposure to the HIV virus are sufficient documentation of diagnoses meeting the Code 1 requirements.

- Examples include diagnosis codes related to:
  - sticks from sharp objects that may be contaminated with HIV,
  - encounters with body fluids from a person that may have the HIV virus, or
  - potential transmission through unprotected sexual encounters.

For more information, please visit DHCS at:

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on the IEHP website at:
www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondences

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054 or (866) 223-4347 or email ProviderServices@iehp.org