

Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

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May 29, 2025

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Rheumatology Referrals

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to the Medi-Cal line of business.

What you need to know:

Dear Providers of Pediatric Care,

Rady Children's Hospital has asked us to share the following important information regarding Pediatric Rheumatology referrals:

Rady is seeing a significant increase in referrals to Pediatric Rheumatology from community clinics, many of which are not consistent with the clinical guidelines for rheumatologic evaluation.

We'd like to share important reminders and updates to ensure timely and appropriate access to care for all patients and to improve coordination between referring providers and the Rheumatology Division at Rady Children's Hospital.

Key Issues Observed:

- Many referrals lack clinical history suggestive of rheumatologic disease.
- Necessary laboratory testing and imaging workup are often not completed prior to referral.
- Referrals are frequently based on nonspecific or inappropriate labs, such as positive ANA results.
 - It is important to note that up to 20% of healthy children and adolescents may test "high" for ANA, which is not indicative of rheumatologic disease on its own.
- A family history of rheumatologic conditions is not a referral indication without supportive clinical symptoms and findings.
- Authorization requests are being submitted after appointments are already scheduled, limiting our ability to triage or redirect patients to more appropriate services in a timely manner.

Provider Action

- Ensure that your clinic teams are trained on the rheumatology referral and authorization process.
- Use the appropriate referral forms and submit prior authorization requests at the time of referral.
- Consider alternative pathways (e.g., PT, pain clinic) when evaluation does not support a rheumatologic diagnosis.

Thank you for your partnership in improving access and outcomes for our pediatric patients!



What you need to know CONT:

Referral & Authorization Requirements:

All referrals to Pediatric Rheumatology require prior authorization and must be submitted at the time the referral is placed. This enables timely review, potential redirection to appropriate care, and helps avoid treatment delays.

For joint pain referrals, please refer to the following to help support medical necessity:

- Clinical characteristics suggestive of rheumatologic disease:
 - Chronic, persistent joint pain accompanied by swelling and not explained by trauma.
- Recommended workup prior to referral:
 - CBC with differential
 - CRP and ESR
 - Comprehensive metabolic panel
 - Urinalysis
 - Plain radiographs of affected joints

Without clinical or laboratory evidence of inflammatory disease, a diagnosis of rheumatologic disease is unlikely. In these cases, referrals may delay access to more appropriate care, such as physical therapy, pain management, or other specialty services.

What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Relations Representative below.

Service County Area	Provider Relations Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
Los Angeles County	Clemente Arias Daniel Amirian Elias Gomez	562-233-1753 747-331-0150 562-723-9760	Clemente.Arias@molinahealthcare.com Daniel.Amirian@molinahealthcare.com Elias.Gomez@molinahealthcare.com
Los Angeles / Orange County	Maria Guimoye	562-783-0005	Maria.Guimoye@molinahealthcare.com
Sacramento County	Johonna Eshalomi	916-268-1418	Johonna.Eshalomi@molinahealthcare.com
San Bernardino County	Luana McIver	909-454-4247	Luana.Mciver@molinahealthcare.com
San Bernardino / Riverside County	Vanessa Lomeli	909-419-3026	Vanessa.Lomeli2@molinahealthcare.com
Riverside County	Patricia Melendez	951-447-7585	Patricia.Melendez@molinahealthcare.com
San Diego / Imperial County	Lincoln Watkins Tan Do	619-972-9860 858-287-4869	Lincoln.Watkins@molinahealthcare.com Tan.Do@molinahealthcare.com

If you are not contracted with Molina and your fax number is not shared with a contracted provider, and you wish to opt out of receiving the MHC Provider Bulletin, please email mhcproviderbulletin@molinahealthcare.com.

Please include the provider's name, NPI, county, and fax number, and you will be removed within 30 days.

Molina Healthcare of California: 200 Oceangate, Suite 100, Long Beach, CA 90802

California Facilities (Hospitals, SNFs, CBAS, ICF/DD & ASC Providers)	Facility Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
Facilities Manager, Los Angeles	Laura Gonzalez	562-325-0368	Laura.Gonzalez3@molinahealthcare.com
San Diego, Sacramento & Imperial Facilities	Dolores Garcia	619-980-7984	Dolores.Garcia@molinahealthcare.com
Riverside & San Bernardino Facilities	MiMi Howard	562-455-3754	Smimi.Howard@molinahealthcare.com

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