The Trump Administration Cuts Federal Funding for Gender Affirming Care for TGI Youth

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Here is What TGI Youth in Medi-Cal Need to Know

The finalized **CMS rule** published August 13, 2026 prevents federal Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) funding for gender-affirming medical care, including hormonal therapy, puberty blockers, and surgical care, for Medicaid beneficiaries under 18. **The rule is in effect as of October 13, 2026.**

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid system. Depending on what county you live in, Medi-Cal may be referred to as a different name. View the complete list of providers through **this directory.**

It is important to highlight what this rule **does not do**:

1. This rule does not ban hospitals from providing these services.
2. This rule does not prohibit providers from delivering care.
3. This rule does not prevent states from providing coverage for care outside of Medi-Cal or with state-only funds.
4. This rule does not prevent non-federal funding to cover the cost of care, including private insurance or paying out of pocket.
5. This rule does not affect the legality of care, however, impacts the funding that pays for this care for young people in Medi-Cal.
6. This rule does not affect federal funding for other services that TGI youth in Medi-Cal currently receive, such as mental health services.

Important to note: Hormone therapy for existing patients should still be billed to Medi-Cal until April 12, 2027. For new patients, the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) has an agreement with **Pucci's Pharmacy to provide prescriptions**.

Gender-affirming care is still legal, safe, and protected in CA

Under California law, individuals are guaranteed access to medically necessary gender-affirming health care without discrimination. As of October 13, 2026, California is paying for necessary gender-affirming care for youth in Medi-Cal through the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

California has taken a number of steps to protect families accessing gender-affirming care. California also protects against the release of medical information if the information is requested to comply with another state's law banning gender-affirming care. California's **Foster Youth Bill of Rights** affirms that foster youth have the right to access this necessary gender-affirming care.

Gender-affirming care is safe, effective, and supported by nearly all major medical organizations in the United States. This rule is counter to the best practice medicine and jeopardizes trans youth's access to the care they need. **California's Attorney General filed a lawsuit to try to stop this rule from going into effect on September 2, 2026.**

The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) will now cover the following services:

1. HCAI will be able to reimburse Medi-Cal patients for puberty blockers, hormone therapy, or surgery for trans youth under 18.
   a. **Important note,** hormone therapy for existing patients should still be billed to Medi-Cal until April 12, 2027.
   b. **For new patients,** the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) has an agreement with Pucci's Pharmacy to provide prescriptions.

What TGI youth in Medi-Cal and their families can do now

If care is underway or ongoing

1. Communicate with your provider to make sure all labs are up to date and all prescriptions have as many refills available as possible.

2. Get copies of your medical record. Every hospital or clinic is going to have their own policies for patients to get copies of their medical records. Your healthcare team should be able to give you the information that you need to get your records through their website, patient portal, or in-person.

3. Families with questions and concerns should contact HCAI at genderaffirmingcare@hcai.ca.gov.

Resources

1. The state of California has set aside funding to help people who will be impacted by this rule, however, young people not enrolled in Medi-Cal may also need help accessing care. If you don't have Medi-Cal and you need help paying for your care contact the RESPCT Fund - RESPCT.

2. Legal support and educational resources
   a. Health Consumer Alliance
   b. How to File a Health Care Complaint (Fact Sheet)
   c. How to Keep Your Medi-Cal (DHCS)

3. Care Navigation
   a. Gender Affirming Care Supply Order Form - Pucci's Pharmacy
   b. TransFamily Support Services

4. Other State resources can be found through:
   a. California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network

The fight is not over yet.
To the families and trans youth who are worried right now: you are not alone. We will never stop fighting for you!