



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

February 3, 2012

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Region IX  
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RESPONSE TO COMPANION LETTER DATED OCTOBER 13, 2011

Dear Ms. Nagle:

This letter, along with Enclosure 1, are the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) responses to the companion letter dated October 13, 2011, accompanying the approval of State Plan Amendment (SPA) 11-019 authorizing all certified nurse practitioners to bill Medicaid independently.

The State appreciates the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) offer to work with us to discuss options for resolving the concerns outlined in your letter.

Please note the enclosed responses and planned corrective actions in Enclosure 1. As noted in the attachment, the State plans to submit SPA 12-009 by February 27, 2012, to address changes needed in our State Plan pages. SPA 12-009 will have no impact on the Federal budget. DHCS does not plan to notify the Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations of SPA 12-009 because it will not make programmatic changes to services currently in the State Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided, please contact Mr. Stephen Halley, Acting Chief, Medi-Cal Benefits and Waiver Analysis Division, at (916) 552-9400 or email at [Stephen.Halley@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Stephen.Halley@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Toby Douglas  
Director

cc: See next page

Ms. Gloria Nagle, Ph.D., M.P.A.  
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cc: Donald A. Novo  
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**CA SPA 12-009 (Companion Letter)  
CMS Comments October 13, 2011  
State's Response January 27, 2012**

**Other optional certified nurse practitioners**

The State currently lists Nurse Anesthetist Services on 3.1-A page 11 and 3.1-B page 11 (the limitation pages for item 6d). The State has inserted "Certified Nurse Practitioners' services" under Item 6d4. If the State currently covers any other optional certified nurse practitioners, then please identify each in item 6d along with any limitations. The limitation language proposed for "certified pediatric and family nurse practitioners services" may be used. If there are other types of nurse practitioners covered and not listed under the State plan in item 6d, then there will need to be a corresponding reimbursement methodology for these practitioners when added to the item 6d coverage page.

**State's response:** In response to CMS' informal comments for SPA 11-019 received August 17, 2011, DHCS added "certified nurse practitioners' services" to item 6d4 to keep all other Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP) separate from the mandatory certified pediatric and family nurse practitioners' services" in Item 23 in Limitations 3.1-A and Item 21 in Limitations 3.1-B. CMS approved SPA 11-019 on October 13, 2011, which amended Item 6d4 to include all CNPs who are not family or pediatric CNPs. DHCS does not have other optional CNPs to add to the State Plan.

**Payment methodology for Case Management Services:**

Please confirm payment methodology for Case Management Services for:

- a. Mentally Disabled (Short-Doyle) is described on page 21 to 25 of Attachment 4.19-B of the current State Plan. The State submitted SPA 09-004 to update Short-Doyle mental health services reimbursement methodology in March 2009. This SPA is currently on RAI.

**State's response:** The State will address this comment in our response to the Request for Additional Information (RAI) for SPA 09-004.

- b. Developmentally Disabled (Lanternman) is described on page 5a to 5b-1 of Attachment 4.19-B of the current State Plan. CMS identified issues during SPA 10-012A review and a companion letter was issued on December 20, 2010, to address the payment methodologies to Developmentally Disabled.

**State's response:** The State will address this comment in our response to the companion letter for the approval of SPA 10-012A.

- c. Supplements 1a, 1b, 1d, 1e and 1f to Attachment 3.1-A for County-Funded Case Management Services are described on page 5d, 5e, 5f, 5j and 5k.

The State submitted SPA 10-010 in September 2010 to revise payment methodology under which the TCM program reimburses government agencies for providing services. This SPA is currently on RAI.

**State's response:** The State will address this comment in our response to the RAI for SPA 10-010.

- d. Supplement 1c to Attachment 3.1-A for children with IEP, IFSP or IHSP is described on page 5d1. Please also confirm the language of payment methodologies described in the State Plan are still accurate.

**State's response:** The State confirms that the language of payment methodology for IEP and IFSP in the State Plan is accurate. However, Medi-Cal no longer pays for targeted case management services for children with an IHSP. The State will submit a new SPA 12-009 by February 27, 2012, that will amend Supplement 1c to Attachment 3.1-A to remove IHSP from the State Plan.

- e. Supplement 1g to Attachment 3.1-A for individuals identified as lead poisoned is described on page 5g-i. Also please confirm the language of payment methodologies described in the State Plan are still accurate.

**State's response:** The State will confirm this when it submits SPA 12-009.

### **Reimbursement methodologies**

Please identify where in Attachment 4.19-B the reimbursement methodologies are described for the following services:

- a. Special Tuberculosis (TB) related services.
- b. Pregnancy-related and postpartum services for a 60-day period after the pregnancy ends and any remaining days in the month in which the 60<sup>th</sup> day falls.
- c. Services for any other medical conditions that may complicate pregnancy.
- d. Certified nurse practitioners' services.
- e. Ambulatory prenatal care for pregnant women furnished during a presumptive eligibility period by an eligible provider.
- f. Respiratory care services.

Additionally, please confirm the payment methodologies language described in State Plan for the above services are still accurate.

**State's response:** The reimbursement methodology for the services specified above are described in Attachment 4.19-B, page 1, paragraph 1, and the payment methodology is accurate. CMS approved this page with SPA 03-023 on December 30, 2003.