DHCS

Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 14, 2016

TO: Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of Indian Health Programs, and Urban Indian Organizations

FROM: Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief, Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division

SUBJECT: Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding a proposed change to the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Medi-Cal Program that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DHCS is forwarding this information for your review and comment.

DHCS is required to seek advice from designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on Medi-Cal matters having a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). DHCS must solicit the advice of designees prior to submission to CMS of any State Plan Amendment, waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

Please see the enclosed summary for a detailed description of this DHCS proposal.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:
Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to DTI@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information
California Department of Health Care Services
Medi-Cal Dental Services Division
Dental Transformation Initiative, Attn: Alani Jackson
11155 International Drive, Building C
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Please note that Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Enclosure

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Notice

PURPOSE:

To amend the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) of Waiver 11-W-00193/9 (Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver), specifically the Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) Domain 1 "Program Criteria" methodology in terms of how the baseline for incentive payments is calculated.

BACKGROUND:

DHCS is currently operating a five-year Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver (Medi-Cal 2020). The waiver operates from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2020. The DTI is part of the Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver. The DTI provides $740,000,000 over five years and will include three (3) domains: preventive services, caries risk assessment and management, and continuity of care, in addition to making funding available for local dental pilot projects that address one (1) or more of these three (3) domains.

This amendment is necessary to ensure new and existing dental provider service office locations are not disadvantaged by having to reach unrealistic increases in the number of children provided preventive services, based on their current capabilities, in order to receive the applicable incentive payment under this domain. Additionally, DHCS will add authority to provide partial incentive payments to provider service office locations that partially meet annual increases in the preventive services provided to children above the pre-determined baseline.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

- Revises the methodology used by DHCS to determine the baseline metrics that will be used by new and existing dental service office locations for purposes of receiving incentive payments; and
- Adds authority to provide partial incentive payments to provider service office locations that partially meet annual increases in the preventive services provided to children above the pre-determined baseline.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS:

The proposed amendments ensure that new and existing Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Health Programs under a Public Law 93-638 contract with the Indian Health Service (IHS), eligible to participate in the DTI, are not disadvantaged by having to meet unrealistic increases in the number of children provided preventive services for purposes of receiving DTI incentive payments and permits partial incentive payments when certain benchmarks are met. The impact is the same for Tribal health programs operating under a Public Law 93-638 contract with the IHS that participate in Medi-Cal as an IHS Memorandum of Agreement provider or a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs):
The impact to FQHCs is similar to that of the impacts to the Tribal Health Programs as noted above.

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES:
The proposed amendments will allow Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal health programs operating under a Public Law 93-638 contract to receive incentive payments that can be used to increase the number of American Indian/Alaskan Native Medi-Cal beneficiaries that these entities serve.

RESPONSE DATE:
Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of the notice. Comments may be sent by email to DTI@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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