



TOBY DOUGLAS
Director

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

September 29, 2014

Mr. Paul Boben

Technical Director
Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers
Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services, CMS
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Ms. Mehreen Hossain

Project Officer
Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers
Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services, CMS
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-02-26
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Ms. Hye Sun Lee

Acting Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Region IX
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707

**CALIFORNIA BRIDGE TO REFORM DEMONSTRATION (NO. 11-W-00193/9)
TECHNICAL CHANGE TO ATTACHMENT N OF THE SPECIAL FOR MEDI-CAL
COVERAGE TO INCLUDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH THERAPY FOR CHILDREN AGED
0 TO 21**

Dear Mr. Boben, Ms. Hossain and Ms. Lee:

The State of California requests a technical change to Attachment N of the Special Terms and Condition (STCs) to allow for the addition of behavioral health therapy (BHT) to the list of covered benefits available to children aged 0 to 21 years who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Given the urgency in the state to operationalize this program change, we request your expedited review and approval of

this technical change, with an effective date to mirror the date approved in the corresponding state plan amendment authorizing BHT.

Background

On July 7, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance regarding the coverage of BHT services pursuant to section 1905(a)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act) for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment services (EPSDT). Section 1905(r) of the Act defines the EPSDT benefit to include a comprehensive array of preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services for low-income infants, children and adolescents under age 21. The guidance further clarified that states are required to provide coverage to individuals eligible for the EPSDT benefit for any Medicaid covered service listed in section 1905(a) of the Act that is determined to be medically necessary to correct or ameliorate any physical or behavioral conditions. In recognition of this clarification, the State is in process of securing the necessary federal approvals for providing BHT under the preventive category and incorporating the benefit into Medi-Cal managed care.

The interim approach for providing access to BHT in Medi-Cal is described in an All Plan Letter, available on the DHCS website at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2014/APL14-011.pdf>

All stakeholder meetings, agendas, and frequently asked questions are available on the DHCS website at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/BehavioralHealthTreatment.aspx>.

On August 19, 2014, DHCS issued a tribal notice to tribal organizations and presented the Demonstration Waiver amendment at the quarterly tribal webinar on August 29, 2014.

http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/rural/Pages/Tribal_Notifications.aspx

The proposed correction would add two additional rows to *Attachment N Capitated Benefits Provided in Managed Care*, to include a reference to “Behavioral Health Treatment” and “Preventive Services”. A redlined version of the document with these changes reflected on page 1 and 17 is attached with this letter. Additionally, DHCS will provide an update to Attachment K of the STCs to reflect the fiscal assumptions of this change in a follow up to this submission.

Mr. Boben, Ms. Hossain, and Ms. Lee
Page 3
September 29, 2014

Thank you for your assistance and consideration. DHCS is happy to assist you and your staff with any questions or concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Brooks, Section Chief, Medi-Cal Managed Care Division at (916) 552-9373 or by email at sarah.brooks@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINALLY SIGNED BY TOBY DOUGLAS

Toby Douglas
Director

Enclosure: Attachment N

cc:

Mari Cantwell
Chief Deputy Director
Health Care Programs
Marianne.Cantwell@dhcs.ca.gov

Rene Mollow
Deputy Director
Health Care Benefits and Eligibility
Rene.Mollow@dhcs.ca.gov

Sarah Brooks
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division
Rene.Mollow@dhcs.ca.gov

Laurie Weaver
Benefits Division
Laurie.Weaver@dhcs.ca.gov