

Section 1115 Waiver Renewal Stakeholder Process

California's current section 1115 Medicaid waiver entitled Medi-Cal Hospital/Uninsured Care Demonstration expires on August 31, 2010. The Administration and Legislature have begun planning for a new, more comprehensive 1115 waiver. Recent legislation passed by the California legislature and signed by the Governor (ABx4 6¹) outlines the goals of the comprehensive waiver: strengthen California's health care safety net; reduce the number of uninsured individuals; optimize opportunities to increase federal financial participation; promote long-term, efficient, and effective use of state and local funds; improve health care quality and outcomes; and promote home and community-based care. ABx4 6 also establishes a stakeholder committee that will inform development of a waiver implementation plan and provide ongoing advice to the state during the term of the waiver.

Review of the Draft Concept Paper: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has released a draft of the concept paper that will be submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to initiate discussion on the design of the waiver. California will work with CMS over the subsequent 10 months to develop and secure approval of a waiver renewal application. We are asking for comments on the concept paper to help in finalizing the draft before sending it to CMS. Comments can be sent to WaiverRenewal@dhcs.ca.gov or provided at a public feedback session scheduled for November 2, 2009, in Sacramento (a call-in phone line will also be available for participants who cannot participate in person). An invitation to this session is available at the [Save the Date link](#).

Development of the Implementation Plan: Waiver implementation will require development of an implementation plan to address actions contemplated in the concept paper and to reflect agreements made with CMS on the details of the waiver. The plan must address the multiple and complex needs of seniors and persons with disabilities, dual eligibles, children with special health care needs, and persons with behavioral health conditions. It must also address the specific strategies that DHCS will use to ensure the provision of quality, accessible health care services under the waiver including, at minimum, the following elements:

1. Criteria, performance standards, and indicators that will be adopted to ensure that services meet the multiple and complex needs of beneficiaries and comply with existing state law.
2. Strategies to monitor the performance of all contractors and to ensure compliance with all components of the waiver.
3. Provision of a comprehensive timeline of key milestones for implementation of the waiver.
4. Provision of a framework for evaluation of the waiver including the process, timelines, and criteria for evaluating implementation, as well as the method for providing periodic updates of outcomes and key implementation concerns.

As required by ABx4 6, DHCS will convene a stakeholder committee to advise on preparation of the implementation plan. The stakeholder committee will also advise on the implementation of the waiver until its expiration.

¹ Assembly Bill X4 6, which can be viewed on the California Legislative Counsel's website at http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx4_6_bill_20090728_chaptered.html.

Stakeholder Committee Representation: The stakeholder committee will include, but not be limited to, persons with disabilities, seniors, representatives of legal services agencies that serve clients in the affected populations, health plans, specialty care providers, physicians, hospitals, county government, labor, and others as deemed appropriate by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA) or a designated department. DHCS will announce the representation of the stakeholder committee in mid-November.

Stakeholder Committee Schedule: DHCS will convene the stakeholder committee in December. In the first phase of its work, the committee will meet every six weeks from December through July to provide advice on the development of the waiver implementation plan. DHCS will also convene technical workgroups to focus on various components of the waiver as needed, such as persons with disabilities, dual eligibles, children with special health care needs, persons with behavioral health conditions, coverage initiatives, and value based purchasing. Information on the stakeholder committee, its members, and meeting dates, times and locations will follow shortly. Please submit your questions, comments, or concerns to DHCS' waiver renewal e-mail inbox: WaiverRenewal@dhcs.ca.gov.