DHCS

Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2016

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

FROM: Original Signed By 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 hhp@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information
Bob Baxter
Health Home Program Section
Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capital Avenue, Suite 71.2110
PO Box 997436, MS 4614
Sacramento, CA 95899

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

DHCS proposes to amend the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) of Waiver, Project 11-W-00193/9 (Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver) to implement the Health Homes Program (HHP) in the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system.

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. Section 2703 of the Affordable Care Act allows a state to implement a health homes program that coordinates the full range of physical, behavioral health, and community-based long term services and supports for members with chronic conditions. California Assembly Bill 361(Chapter 642, Statutes of 2013) authorizes DHCS to implement the HHP with conditions on populations to be served and limits on state fund impact. Health homes services include comprehensive care management; care coordination; health promotion; comprehensive transitional care; individual and family support; and referral to community and social supports. With these services a care manager such as a nurse or other trained professional will be assigned to each member to help them find the right health care or other services in their communities.

Summary of Proposed Changes

DHCS will waive freedom of choice for HHP under this Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver amendment. Health Home Program services will be provided through the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system to members enrolled in managed care. Fee-For-Service (FFS) members who meet HHP eligibility criteria may choose to enroll in a Medi-Cal managed care plan to receive HHP services as well as all other state plan services. HHP services will not be provided through the FFS delivery system.

Impact to Tribal Health Programs

The proposed amendment may impact Tribal Health Programs. Tribal health providers have the option to become health home providers within the local community as a community-based care management entity. Medi-Cal managed care health plans will select and certify local community-based providers to provide health homes services. Health Home care coordination services are optional for members.

Impact to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

FQHC providers will have the option to become health home providers within the local community as a community-based care management entity. Medi-Cal managed care health plans will select and certify local community-based providers to provide health homes services.

Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

HHP is a program for members with multiple chronic and complex conditions such as diabetes, asthma, or serious mental health or substance use disorders. Program services will be targeted for members who are most likely to benefit from assistance managing their conditions and the services available to them. The goal of the program is to improve Medi-Cal members' health by making sure they are able to access the services they

need at the right time. HHP eligible members may include American Indians with chronic conditions.

HHP services will be provided only through the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system to members enrolled in managed care. Fee-For-Service (FFS) members who meet HHP eligibility criteria may choose to enroll in a Medi-Cal managed care plan to receive HHP services as well as all other state plan services. HHP services will not be provided through the FFS delivery system.

Response Date:
Indian Helath Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this amendment within 35 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to hhp@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address listed below:

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