



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 21, 2013

TO: Tribal Chairpersons, California Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations

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

SUBJECT: Notice of Proposed Change to 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 the submission to CMS of any State Plan Amendments, waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Optional Adult Eligibility Expansion Group 1115

Waiver Amendment: DHCS is submitting an 1115 Waiver Amendment (Waiver Amendment) to the CMS in order to implement the ACA Medicaid optional adult eligibility group expansion provision. This provision gives states the option to expand Medicaid services to childless adults with annual incomes up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. California Assembly Bill x1 1 (Chapter 3 Statutes of 2013-14, First Extraordinary Session) authorizes the expansion. This Waiver Amendment is necessary to implement the enrollment of the expansion eligibility group into the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system. Please see the enclosed summary of the proposed 1115 Waiver amendment for a detailed description and contact information for questions or comments.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

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

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Page 2

August 21, 2013

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Department of Health Care Services
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P.O. Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this waiver amendment in the next quarterly Medi-Cal Indian Health webinar. 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)
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division
Affordable Care Act (ACA) Optional Adult Eligibility Expansion Group
1115 Waiver Amendment**

Background

DHCS administers the Medi-Cal managed care program in accordance with the federal and state law and regulations. The DHCS contracts for health care services through networks of providers organized as managed care systems. The managed care systems are administered by health plans. As of November 1, 2013, over five million beneficiaries in all counties of California will receive service through Medi-Cal managed care.

Description of Waiver and Effective Date:

DHCS is submitting an 1115 Waiver Amendment (Waiver Amendment) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in order to implement the ACA Medicaid optional adult eligibility group expansion provision. This provision gives states the option to expand Medicaid services to childless adults with annual incomes up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. California Assembly Bill x1 1 (Chapter 3 Statutes of 2013-14, First Extraordinary Session) authorizes the expansion. This Waiver Amendment is necessary to implement the enrollment of the expansion eligibility group into the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system.

The Waiver Amendment will grant authority for the State to provide care to the new adult eligibility group using a Medi-Cal managed care delivery system in all counties of California. The effective date of the eligibility expansion and the Waiver will be January 1, 2014.

Impact to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations

Impact on Indian Health Programs

DHCS does not anticipate any impact to Indian health programs related to this proposal. However, Indian health programs may see an increase in patients that are covered by Medi-Cal.

Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

This proposal may affect Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries by expanding access to affordable medical coverage and creating a coordinated system of care for low-income adults in the new adult eligibility group through Medi-Cal managed care.

Response Date:

Indian health programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this waiver amendment within 30 days from the receipt of this letter. Comments may be sent by email to Brian.Hansen@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address listed below.

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