



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Waiver Amendment  
Questions and Responses**

1. What are the mental health benefits that will be added by the amendment and covered by managed care (non-specialty mental health benefits)?

**DHCS Response:** The 1915(b) waiver amendment only covers Medi-Cal specialty mental health services, the scope of which are not changing with this amendment. The 1915(b) waiver simply addresses the fact that new beneficiaries that become eligible as a result of the Medicaid expansion will be able to access Medi-Cal specialty mental health services if they meet medical necessity criteria, and that new non-specialty mental health services will be available through the Medi-Cal managed care and fee-for-service Medi-Cal (FFS/MC) programs effective 1/1/14. The new services available through the Medi-Cal managed care plans and through FFS/MC will be:

- Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment (psychotherapy)
- Psychological testing when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition
- Outpatient laboratory, drugs, supplies and supplements and
- Psychiatric consultation

2. Do the benefits extend to American Indians/Alaska Natives who elect out of managed care?

**DHCS Response:** Because these services will be available in both the Managed Care and FFS/MC delivery systems, American Indians/Alaska Natives that opt out of managed care will still be able to get the new services through the FFS/MC system.

3. Please include Substance Abuse Counselors for provider reimbursement under the proposed waiver.

**DHCS Response:** Thank you for your comment.