



Department of Health Care Services  
**MEMORANDUM**

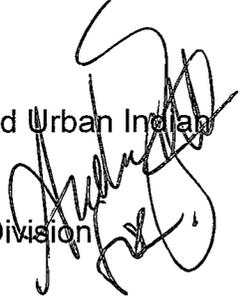
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**DATE:** May 24, 2013

**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 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.

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-017 – Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Care Services provided in preparation for Emergency Medical Transportation:** SPA 13-017 will amend the State Plan to reimburse providers for pre-hospital emergency medical care services provided by eligible licensed or certified emergency medical personnel (i.e. Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics) off the grounds of a health facility in preparation for an emergency medical transport provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Please see the enclosed summary of SPA 13-017 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 SPA within 30 days from the receipt of this notice. Comments or feedback may be sent by mail or email to the address below:

**Contact Information:**

Stacy Fox, Chief  
Medical Supplemental Payments Section  
Department of Health Care Services  
Safety Net Financing Division  
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4504  
P.O. Box 997436  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7436  
[stacy.fox@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:stacy.fox@dhcs.ca.gov)

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In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this SPA 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

**Safety Net Financing Division  
Department of Health Care Services  
Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Care Services provided in preparation for Emergency  
Medical Transportation  
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-017**

**Background**

The Department of Health Care Services (department) SPA 09-024 proposed a supplemental reimbursement program for governmental ground emergency medical transportation providers, which included expenditures for emergency care services provided by firefighters to prepare a Medi-Cal beneficiary for a ground emergency medical transport. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring that the services provided by firefighters to be removed from SPA 09-024 and for the department to create a new SPA for these services pursuant to a methodology in consultation with CMS.

**Description of SPA and Effective Date**

This notice is to provide information on the proposed SPA 13-017 for reimbursing providers for pre-hospital emergency medical care services provided by eligible licensed or certified emergency medical personnel (i.e. Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics) off the grounds of a health facility in preparation for an emergency medical transport provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

The reimbursement payments will be made in a manner that is approved by the federal CMS. DHCS will be submitting SPA 13-017 no later than September 30, 2013, requesting the effective date of July 1, 2013.

**Impact on Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations**

**Impact on Indian Health Programs**

This SPA allows reimbursement to eligible licensed or certified emergency personnel as described above and will impact Indian health programs only to the extent they provide pre-hospital emergency medical care services in preparation for emergency medical transportation. The reimbursement methodology for services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries is being developed in consultation with CMS.

**Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**

DHCS does not anticipate that this SPA has a direct impact on Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

**Response Date**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this SPA within 30 days from the receipt of this letter. Comments may be sent by email to [stacy.fox@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:stacy.fox@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

Stacy Fox, Chief  
Medical Supplemental Payments Section  
Department of Health Care Services  
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