



Department of Health Care Services  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE:** October 11, 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) 13-042 Maintenance and Acquisition of Skills:**

DHCS plans to submit SPA 13-042 to the CMS to seek approval to clarify the program coverage description in the State Plan related to physical, occupational and speech therapy. Please see the enclosed summary of the SPA 13-042 for a detailed description and contact information for questions or comments.

DHCS will hold a teleconference to provide an opportunity to discuss and provide for immediate feedback regarding SPA 13-042. The teleconference will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2013. To participate in this teleconference dial toll-free, 1-800-369-1791. When asked for a participant code number please respond "DHCS". Please note this SPA is scheduled for submission on October 25, 2013.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal prior to the scheduled submission date. Comments or feedback may be sent by email to [Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

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**Contact Information:**

Kathryn Waje  
Administrative Support Unit  
Utilization Management Division  
Department of Health Care Services  
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4506  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Enclosure

**Benefits Division  
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-042  
Maintenance and Acquisition of Skills**

**Background:**

The DHCS administers the Medi-Cal program in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations. The Medi-Cal program covers rehabilitative physical, occupational and speech therapy services. The DHCS intends to amend the State Plan to further define the scope of these services to include the maintenance and acquisition of skills.

**Description of SPA and Effective Date:**

DHCS is submitting SPA 13-042 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to clarify the program coverage description in the State Plan related to physical, occupational and speech therapy. Physical, occupational and speech therapy are available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries for the restoration, maintenance and acquisition of skills. The proposed effective date for this SPA is October 1, 2013.

**Impact to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations:**

- **Impact on Indian Health Programs**  
This SPA may impact Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations to the extent they may see an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing medically necessary physical, occupational and speech therapy services for the maintenance and acquisition of skills.
  
- **Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**  
This SPA may impact American Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries requiring medically necessary physical, occupational and speech therapy services for the maintenance and acquisition of skills.

**Response Date:**

DHCS plans to conduct a teleconference on Thursday, October 17, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to allow for immediate feedback and provide an opportunity to discuss this proposal. Comments or questions can be sent by email to [Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

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