



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 23, 2014

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

FROM: Original Signed by Andrea Zubiarte for 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 (SPA), waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

SPA 14-018 Alternative Benefits Plan (ABP) Update: Assembly Bill 82 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2013) restored limited adult dental benefits under the Medi-Cal program, effective May 1, 2014 pursuant to federal approval. SPA 14-018 will add limited adult dental benefits, as required by state law, for newly eligible low-income adults in the Medi-Cal ABP. Please see the enclosed summary of SPA 14-018 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 to the address below:

Contact Information:

Nathaniel Emery
Clinical Assurance and Administrative Support Division
Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4506
P.O. Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413
Nathaniel.Emery@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

**Medi-Cal Benefits Division
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 14-018
Alternative Benefits Plan (ABP) Update**

Background:

The Affordable Care Act, Section 2001 allows state Medicaid agencies to design and implement the ABP. An ABP or "benchmark" or "benchmark-equivalent" allows states to provide medical coverage for newly eligible low-income adults. In order to implement this federal provision, Senate Bill X1 1 authorized California's ABP for Medi-Cal by adding Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14132.02. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved SPA 13-035 on March 28, 2014, to implement California's ABP.

Per Assembly Bill 82 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2013) limited adult dental benefits were restored under the Medi-Cal program, effective May 1, 2014 pursuant to federal approval (SPA 13-018 on April 29, 2014).

Description of the SPA and Effective Date:

DHCS is submitting SPA 14-018 to CMS to add limited adult dental benefits, as required by state law, for newly eligible low-income adults in the Medi-Cal ABP. Dental benefits added under the Medi-Cal ABP for newly eligible low-income adults will be exactly the same schedule of dental benefits provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries eligible for the Medi-Cal program. The proposed effective date of this SPA is May 1, 2014.

Impact to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations:

- **Impact on Indian Health Programs**
SPA 14-018 will add dental services to the list of benefits available to newly eligible low-income adults under the Medi-Cal ABP. Indian Health Programs can provide these services and bill in the same manner for the purposes of reimbursement of these services.

- **Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**
Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries, who are newly eligible low-income adults under Medi-Cal ABP, will be able to receive dental services as covered Medi-Cal benefits.

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 Nathaniel.Emery@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address listed below:

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