



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 14-012  
Questions and Responses**

1. Will this amendment authorize Licensed MFT's and Registered MFT interns as providers of mental health psychotherapy services at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)?

**DHCS Response:** Yes. SPA 14-012 will enable Marriage and Family Therapist (MFTs) to provide mental health services in an FQHC and will enable registered MFT interns to provide mental health services under the supervision of a supervisor. SPA 14-012 would not make services provided by an MFT a billable encounter in an FQHC, which must be established by federal and state laws.

2. When might we expect this plan amendment to be approved by CMS, and how might we come to be informed of this approval?

**DHCS Response:** DHCS will submit SPA 14-012 by the end of March 2014. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has 90 days to take action on the SPA, to either approve it or request additional information. However, approval may take longer if CMS requests additional information.

DHCS is mandated by California statute to post onto its website all SPAs within 10 business days from the date the SPA was submitted to and approved or denied by CMS. For more information, SPA 14-012 can be located on the DHCS website

at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/CaliforniStatePlan.aspx>

3. If there is a contractual arrangement for a licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LFMT) to perform therapy for the substance abuse clients of this organization and that licensed provider is also the supervisor of one of our staff members (who is also an MFT Intern supervised by the above licensed provider), will it be acceptable as long as the conditions of supervision as defined by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences are observed, or [will it be acceptable] if there is no contractual arrangement, but the conditions of supervision as defined by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences are observed?

**DHCS Response:** The California Business & Professions Code details specific requirements for supervision of mental health professionals. Individuals should consult with the board that oversees the organization for their employment and the Board for Behavioral Sciences.

4. Do state statutes or regulations prohibit the use of interns providing MH services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries or provide any guidance about the use of MH interns?

**DHCS Response:** California laws and regulations allow registered interns to provide mental health services under the direct supervision of a licensed mental health professional. Interns must also register and comply with the applicable governing board. The Board of Behavioral Sciences oversees the licensure of MFTs and registration MFT interns and associate clinical social workers. The Board of Psychology oversees the registration of psychological assistants.

5. Do you have any information regarding Medi-Cal authorization for MFT/MFT intern psychotherapy services provided at Federally Qualified Health Centers?

**DHCS Response:** Please see the response to Question No. 1.