



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 14-026
Adding Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) as a Covered Medi-Cal Service
Questions and Responses**

1. In regards to Medi-Cal and adding Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services for those diagnosed autism spectrum disorder. Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc., is in support of expanding services to include adding BHT as a covered Medi-Cal Service. What happens to the patient with this diagnosis after they turn 21? Does this coverage fall away? If so, does Medicaid pick it up?

DHCS Response: Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services are being added for eligible beneficiaries ages 0 to 21 only to comply with informational guidance provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid on July 7, 2014. Earlier diagnoses and interventions have been shown to improve outcomes for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. However, individuals with developmental disabilities may be eligible to receive services through the Regional Centers. These services are administered by the Department of Developmental Services. Also, Medi-Cal is the federal Medicaid program. Medicare provides health insurance coverage for certain disabilities. DHCS is not aware if BHT is a Medicare covered benefit.