



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2015

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

FROM: Original Signed By
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, waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 15-005 Allied Dental Professionals Enrollment into the Medi-Cal Dental Services Program: DHCS plans to submit SPA 15-005 to CMS to allow the enrollment of Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs), and Registered Dental Hygienists in Extended Functions (RDHEFs) into the Medi-Cal Dental Program as providers if they are employed by: (1) a public health program created by Federal, State, or local law; or (2) a public health program managed by a Federal, State, county, or local governmental entity. Please see the enclosed summary of SPA 15-005 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 email to Nathaniel.Emery@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 71.326
P.O. Box 997417
Sacramento, CA 95899-7417
Attention: Nathaniel Emery

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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 Dental Services Division
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 15-005
Allied Dental Professionals Enrollment into the
Medi-Cal Dental Services Program**

Background

DHCS does not currently enroll Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) nor Registered Dental Hygienists in Extended Functions (RDHEFs) into the Medi-Cal Dental Program as providers. However, RDHs, RDHEFs, and Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs), meet provider qualifications per Federal law.¹ In order to allow them to enroll into the Medi-Cal dental program, DHCS intends to submit a SPA to add them as covered providers.

Description of SPA and Effective Date

DHCS plans to submit SPA 15-005 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow enrollment of RDHs and RDHEFs as providers in the Medi-Cal Dental Program if they are employed by: (1) a public health program created by Federal, State, or local law; or (2) a public health program managed by a Federal, State, county, or local governmental entity. SPA 15-005 will also allow RDHAPs to enroll into the Medi-Cal Dental Program as billing and/or rendering providers. RDHs, RDHEFs, and RDHAPs will be able to provide covered dental services. These services will be paid for based on the Denti-Cal Manual of Criteria. The effective date of SPA 15-005 is September 1, 2015.

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 because it may increase the number of allied dental providers who can provide services. In order to bill for RDH, RDHEF and RDHAP services in a Federally Qualified Health Center a Change in Scope of Service Request is required. The Prospective Payment System rate must first be recalculated to include dental hygienist costs and visits per state law and the Medi-Cal State Plan².

Tribal Health Programs participating in Medi-Cal as Indian Health Services-Memorandum of Agreement (IHS-MOA) providers may bill for the preventive services per the Denti-Cal Manual of Criteria provided by RDH, RDHEF, and RDHAP services at the IHS all-inclusive rate.

Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

This SPA may impact American Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries because it may expand access to specified dental services.

¹ 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 440.60 and 42 United States Code 1396d (a)(6)

² Welfare & Institutions Code Section 14132.100 and the State Plan Amendment, 4.19-B, Page 6-U, Section N(2)(b).

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.

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