



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 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) 15-017 Health Home Program: DHCS plans to submit SPA 15-017 to CMS to seek approval to allow DHCS to create a health home program for Medi-Cal members with chronic conditions. Please see the enclosed summary of SPA 15-017 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 hhp@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

Bob Baxter
Health Home Program Section
Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capital Avenue, Suite 71.2110
PO Box 997436, MS 4614
Sacramento, CA 95899

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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

**Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Tribal Notice for
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 15-017
Health Home Program**

Background

Section 2703 of the Affordable Care Act allows states to implement a health home program which is designed to coordinate the full range of physical, behavioral health, and community-based long term services and supports for members with chronic conditions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services must approve the state plan amendment (SPA) to add health home program services to the Medi-Cal program. Assembly Bill 361(Chapter 642, Statutes of 2013) authorizes DHCS to submit a SPA. Federal funds pay for 90 percent of the program service costs for the first two years. A private foundation plans to pay the other 10 percent. The limit for the 10 percent is \$50 million over the two years.

Description of SPA and Effective Date

The SPA will allow DHCS to create a health home program for members with multiple chronic and complex conditions such as diabetes, asthma, or serious mental health or substance use disorders. Program services will be targeted for members who are most likely to benefit from assistance navigating their conditions and the services available to them. The goal of the program is to improve Medi-Cal beneficiaries' health by making sure they are able to access the services they need at the right time.

Health home services include comprehensive care management; care coordination; health promotion; comprehensive transitional care; individual and family support; and referral to community and social supports. With these services a care manager such as a nurse or other trained professional will be assigned to each member to help them navigate health care or other services in their communities. The care coordinator will work with the beneficiary and their family to develop a health action plan for each member based on their needs and wishes. Information will be given to help the member manage and improve their health, and the program can help with transitions when members need to enter or leave the hospital or move to another facility. The program will also provide referrals to food and nutrition assistance, employment, child care and disability services when needed. The program may also be able to help beneficiaries who are experiencing homelessness to find stable housing.

DHCS is requesting that this SPA have an effective date of January 1, 2016.

Impact to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations

- **Impact on Indian Health Programs**

SPA 15-017 may impact Indian Health Programs. Indian health providers have the option to become health home providers within the local community as a community-based care management entity. Medi-Cal managed care health plans will select and certify local community-based providers to provide health home services. Health Home care coordination services are entirely optional for members.

- **Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**

SPA 15-017 provides enhanced care coordination services to better meet the needs of people with multiple chronic illnesses. Eligible members may include American Indians with chronic conditions.

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 notice. Comments may be sent by email to hhp@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address listed below:

Contact Information:

Bob Baxter
Health Home Program Section
Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capital Avenue, Suite 71.4006
PO Box 997436, MS 4408
Sacramento, CA 95899