



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2013

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

FROM: Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief, Primary and Rural Health Division 

SUBJECT: Amended 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 13-008 Amended Notice, Outpatient Mental Health Service Expansion: DHCS plans to submit SPA 13-008 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to seek approval to expand outpatient mental health services to all Medi-Cal Beneficiaries as required per Senate Bill (SB) x1-1, (Hernandez, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2013), Section 29, added Welfare and Institutions (W & I) Code §14132.03. Please see the enclosed summary of SPA 13-008 for a detailed description and contact information for questions or comments.

DHCS will hold a teleconference to provide an opportunity to discuss and provide immediate feedback regarding SPA 13-008. The teleconference will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday August 12, 2013. To participate in this teleconference dial toll-free, 1-888-982-4490. When asked for a participant code, please respond "DHCS". Please note this SPA is scheduled for submission on August 21, 2013.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal prior to the schedule submission date. Comments or feedback may be sent by email to Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov, or by mail to the address below:

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Contact Information:

Kathryn Waje

Department of Health Care Services

Administrative Support Unit

Utilization Management Division

1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4506

Sacramento, CA 95814

Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov

Enclosure

**Benefits Division
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-008 Amended Notice
Outpatient Mental Health Service Expansion**

Background:

Senate Bill (SB) x1-1, (Hernandez, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2013), Section 29, added Welfare and Institutions (W & I) Code §14132.03 to require the DHCS to expand mental health services to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Description of the SPA and Effective Date:

DHCS plans to submit SPA 13-008 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to seek approval to expand outpatient mental health services. Effective January 1, 2014, outpatient mental health services will be covered when provided by providers who are licensed health care professionals acting within the scope of their license.

- Mental Health Services will be expanded to include :
 - Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment (psychotherapy).
 - Psychological testing when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition.
 - Outpatient services for the purposes of monitoring drug therapy.
 - Outpatient laboratory, drugs, supplies and supplements.
 - Psychiatric consultation.

Impact to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations:

- **Impact on Indian Health Programs**
This SPA will impact Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations because they may see an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing mental services.
- **Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**
This SPA will impact American Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries by expanding access to mental health services in all Medi-Cal delivery settings and without limitations.

Response Date:

DHCS plans to conduct a teleconference on August 12, 2013 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., to allow for your immediate feedback and to provide an opportunity for us to discuss this proposal. Comments may be sent by email or mail to the address below:

Kathryn Waje
Department of Health Care Services
Administrative Support Unit
Utilization Management Division
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4506
Sacramento, CA 95814
Kathryn.Waje@dhcs.ca.gov