



Department of Health Care Services  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE:** August 26, 2016

**TO:** Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of 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.

Please see the enclosed summary for a detailed description of this DHCS proposal.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [andrea.zubiate@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:andrea.zubiate@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

**Contact Information**

Andrea Zubiate, Coordinator  
Indian Health Program  
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS 8502  
PO Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this proposal 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



**Department of Health Care Services  
Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Notice**

**PURPOSE**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) plans to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 16-028 to align the State Plan with current policy, which allows reimbursement for three visits per day, if one is a medical visit, one is an ambulatory visit, and one is an other health visit for providers, who participate in Medi-Cal under the Indian Health Service (IHS)/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).<sup>i</sup>

**BACKGROUND**

DHCS' policy for number of reimbursable visits allowed per day is not clearly defined in the current State Plan and must be updated to reflect the appropriate number of visits. IHS/CMS MOA section of the State Plan states that reimbursement for two visits per day is allowed, but excludes reference to ambulatory visits.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

SPA 16-028 will update the State Plan<sup>ii</sup> to allow reimbursement for three visits per day, if one is a medical visit, one is an ambulatory visit, and one is an other health visit.

**IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

DHCS does not anticipate any impact to Tribal health programs<sup>iii</sup> as this proposal is consistent with current DHCS policy.

**IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)**

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to FQHCs.

**IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES**

DHCS does not anticipate any impact to Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries as this proposal is consistent with current DHCS policy.

**RESPONSE DATE**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice to Andrea Zubiata by email at [andrea.zubiata@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:andrea.zubiata@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to:

Andrea Zubiata, Coordinator  
Indian Health Program  
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS 8502  
PO Box 997413  
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<sup>i</sup> [IHS/CMS MOA](#) Note: CMS was formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration.

<sup>ii</sup> [Supplement 6, Attachment 4.19B](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [Public Law \(PL\) 93-638 and codified in 25 United State Code \(U.S.C\) § 450f et seq.](#)