

**Department of Health Care Services
Proposed Trailer Bill Legislation**

**617 - Delay in Effective Date for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT)
Becoming Billable Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) Providers**

FACT SHEET

Issue Title: Delay in Effective Date for MFTs Becoming Billable FQHC Providers. This proposal would delay the effective date on which visits with MFTs can be considered billable for an FQHC.

Background: AB 1863 (Wood, Chapter 610, Statutes 2016) added marriage and family therapists to the list of eligible billable providers for FQHCs effective January 1, 2017. In order to effectuate this change, DHCS would be required to take several actions, including but not limited to developing a state plan amendment (SPA); developing policies and procedures for FQHCs; and responding to requests for a changes in scope of service to add MFTs as billable providers.

Justification for the Change: Under this proposal, FQHCs would not be permitted to bill Medi-Cal for MFT visits until July 1, 2018. This delay in timeline is necessary given the significant DHCS staff resources that would be required to implement this change. Given the budget challenges and multitude of priorities, DHCS is unable to devote the necessary staff time to complete the work needed to effectuate the inclusion of MFT visits as billable visits any sooner than July 1, 2018.

Summary of Argument in Support:

- The proposed TBL clarifies in state law that MFT visits are not eligible as billable visits until July 1, 2018, which is the soonest DHCS would be able to implement the change.
- This proposal would align state law with the reality of the implementation timeline.

BCP or Estimate Issue # and Title: None.