



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 26, 2019

To: Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of Indian Health Programs, and
Urban Indian Organizations

Subject: Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this letter 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 Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Health Care Services
Director's Office
ATTN: Angeli Lee
MS 0000
P.O. Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

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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.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Sandra Willburn, Chief
Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



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

PURPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0041 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals to authorize a time-limited supplemental payment program to support ongoing developmental screenings for children up to 30 months of age enrolled in full-scope Medi-Cal coverage.

BACKGROUND

California voters approved the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act¹ (commonly known as Proposition 56 (Prop. 56)) to increase the excise tax rate on cigarettes and tobacco products on November 8, 2016. Under Prop. 56, a specified portion of the tobacco tax revenue is allocated to DHCS for use as the state's share of some Medi-Cal expenditures in accordance with the annual state budget process. The Budget Act of 2019² appropriated Prop. 56 funds for specified DHCS health care expenditures during the 2019-20 state fiscal year. This includes up to approximately \$60 million allocated for supplemental reimbursement payments for developmental screenings that are recommended for children up to 30 months of age under the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. DHCS provides a comprehensive set of services under the EPSDT benefit for people under 21 years of age, as described by Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Section 440.345.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

SPA 19-0041 proposes to add a fixed supplemental payment rate of \$59.90 to support developmental screenings for all children with full-scope Medi-Cal coverage. Developmental screenings are recommended for children at age-appropriate, periodic intervals at nine, 18, and 30 months, as well as additional screenings when medically necessary. Screenings will be billed and reimbursed in both fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems using Current Procedural Terminology Code 96110. These payments will be in addition to the amounts paid for the office visit that accompanies the screening in FFS scenarios or capitation paid by Medi-Cal managed care plans.

The proposed effective date for SPA 19-0041 is January 1, 2020, with a proposed end date of December 31, 2021. The proposed SPA 19-0041 is subject to approval by CMS.

¹ [The California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Act of 2016](#)

² [Assembly Bill 74 \(Ting, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019\)](#)



IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

To the extent that Tribal health programs provide developmental screenings, an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing the service may occur. Supplemental payments will be available as a Fee-for-Service (FFS) payment in addition to the Office of Management and Budget Indian Health Service per visit rate.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

To the extent that FQHCs provide developmental screening, an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing the services may occur. Supplemental payments will be available as a FFS payment in addition to the Prospective Payment System per visit rate.

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

Children up to 30 months of age enrolled in full-scope Medi-Cal coverage may have improved access to developmental screening services and treatment for any condition discovered during the screening.

RESPONSE DATE

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 Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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