



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 20, 2021

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

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

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update to the Tribal Notice for State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0058, released on August 24, 2021. The enclosed update provides information regarding a change in the proposed effective date from January 1, 2022 to July 1, 2022.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this SPA within 14 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

Department of Health Care Services
Director's Office
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95814

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 Andrea Zubiarte for

Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief
Office of Tribal Affairs
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs
Notice Addendum**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this addendum is to inform Tribal Chairpersons and Designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations of a change in proposed effective date for a component of State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0058.

Currently, the effective date for SPA 21-0058 is January 1, 2022. DHCS is proposing an effective date of July 1, 2022 for the peer support services portion of SPA 21-0058 only. The effective date for the remainder of SPA 21-0058 will remain January 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND

As previously communicated in the [Tribal and Designees notice released on August 26, 2021](#), the purpose of SPA 21-0058 is to add DMC-ODS expanded substance use disorder treatment services to the Medicaid State Plan.

On September 25, 2020, the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Act of 2020 (Senate Bill (SB) 803) was chaptered. SB 803 authorized DHCS to seek federal approvals to add peer support specialists as a Medi-Cal provider type and peer support services as a distinct service type in counties opting to participate and implement this service. Accordingly, SPA 21-0058 proposes to add peer support services as a DMC-ODS expanded substance disorder service and includes peer support specialists as a distinct provider type. This peer support services portion of SPA 21-0058 will allow DMC-ODS counties to opt to provide and claim reimbursement for peer support services as a DMC-ODS service.

In consultation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHCS is now seeking an effective date of July 1, 2022 for the implementation of the peer support services portion only of SPA 21-0058 to coincide with the establishment of the DHCS' peer specialist certification program, which will become effective July 1, 2022. As mentioned above, this change in the effective date is specific to the implementation of the peer support services portion of SPA 21-0058, and the effective date for the implementation of all other DMC-ODS expanded substance use disorder treatment services contained in SPA 21-0058 will remain January 1, 2022.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

DHCS does not anticipate an impact as a result of the change in the effective date for the peer support services portion of SPA 21-0058. As mentioned above, the effective date was changed to align with the peer specialist certification program, which will be effective July 1, 2022.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

DHCS does not anticipate an impact as a result of the change in the effective date for the peer support services portion of SPA 21-0058. As mentioned above, the effective date was changed to align with the peer specialist certification program, which will be effective July 1, 2022.

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

DHCS does not anticipate an impact as a result of the change in the effective date for the peer support services portion of SPA 21-0058. As mentioned above, the effective date was changed to align with the peer specialist certification program, which will be effective July 1, 2022.

RESPONSE DATE

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions to DHCS concerning this SPA within 14 days from the receipt of this addendum. Comments may be sent by email to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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