



WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 24, 2021

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 (SPA), 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 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

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and Urban Indian Organizations

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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 Andrea Zubiate 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**

PURPOSE

To seek necessary approvals to include Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) expanded substance use disorder services in the Medicaid State Plan.

BACKGROUND

The DMC-ODS has provided California counties with the option to provide their resident Medi-Cal beneficiaries with expanded substance use disorder treatment services since 2015. The DMC-ODS is authorized under California's Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver through December 31, 2021¹.

In alignment with DHCS' California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, the authority for the DMC-ODS expanded substance use disorder treatment services is moving from California's Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver to the 1915(b) waiver, and DMC-ODS services will be included in the Medicaid State Plan. Therefore, State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0058 adds DMC-ODS' expanded substance use disorder treatment services to the Medicaid State Plan. DHCS seeks an effective date of January 1, 2022 for this SPA.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

SPA 21-0058 proposes to add the following DMC-ODS expanded substance use disorder treatment services to the Medicaid State Plan:

1. Outpatient Services (also known as Outpatient Drug Free or ODF)
2. Intensive Outpatient Treatment
3. Partial Hospitalization
4. Residential Treatment
5. Narcotic Treatment Program (also known as NTP or Opioid Treatment Program or OTP)
6. Withdrawal Management
7. Clinician Consultation
8. Case Management
9. Peer Support Services
10. Medications for Addiction Treatment (also known as Medication Assisted Treatment or MAT) Delivered at Alternative Sites
11. Recovery Services

¹ As part of CalAIM, DHCS also seeks to shift the managed care authority for DMC-ODS to a consolidated Section 1915(b) waiver and secure waivers of state wideness and comparability provisions in order to continue to offer DMC-ODS services at county option.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Including DMC-ODS services in the Medicaid State Plan instead of the current Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver should not impact Tribal Health Programs since this change is only a shift in the authority for the DMC-ODS services. Counties must still opt in to participate in the DMC-ODS program. Payment requirements and access to Indian Health Care Providers (IHCP) are outlined in [Behavioral Health Information Notice \(BHIN\) 20-065](#).

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

Including DMC-ODS services in the Medicaid State Plan instead of the current Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver should not impact FQHCs since this change is only a shift in the authority for the DMC-ODS services. Counties must still opt in to participate in the DMC-ODS program. Payment requirements and access to IHCPs are outlined in [BHIN 20-065](#).

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

Including DMC-ODS services in the Medicaid State Plan instead of the current Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver should not impact Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries since this change is only a shift in the authority for the DMC-ODS services. Counties must still opt in to participate in the DMC-ODS program. Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicaid and reside in counties that have opted in to the DMC-ODS can also receive DMC-ODS services through IHCPs as outlined in [BHIN 20-065](#).

RESPONSE DATE

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this SPA within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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