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Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

August 23, 2022

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.

**WEBINAR INFORMATION FOR EXPEDITED NOTICE**

DHCS will also host a webinar to offer an opportunity to discuss and provide immediate feedback regarding this proposal. **The webinar will be held on Friday, August 26, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM.** To participate in this webinar, please register [here](#). Please note this SPA is scheduled for submission by September 9, 2022.

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and Urban Indian Organizations

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**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this SPA within 5 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Andrea Zubiato, Acting Chief  
Office of Tribal Affairs  
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 22-0062 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek the necessary federal approvals to reimbursement rates for mpox (MPX) vaccine administration.

### **BACKGROUND**

Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra declared a public health emergency on August 4, 2022, as a result of the consequences of an outbreak of MPX cases across multiple states. In response to the declared public health emergency, DHCS is proposing to establish the Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement rates for MPX vaccine administration at 100 percent of the corresponding Medicare rate for the same or similar service, effective August 17, 2022 through the end of the declared public health emergency. At the end of the declared public health emergency the reimbursement methodology is expected to return to the methodology as described in State Plan Attachment 4.19-B. SPA 22-0062 is subject to approval by CMS.

Because the vaccines are being paid for by the federal government, there will be no provider reimbursement under Medi-Cal for the MPX vaccine itself. Proposed SPA 22-0062 is subject to approval by CMS.

### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

DHCS proposes to reimburse Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers (Tribal FQHCs) a supplemental amount for MPX vaccine-only visits. This alternative payment methodology will be additional reimbursement above the applicable Prospective Payment Systems (PPS)/alternative payment methodology (APM) approved in State Plan Attachment 4.19-B. This APM will reimburse clinics an additional payment equal to the established FFS rate when a MPX vaccine is administered on its own.

The proposed effective date for SPA 22-0062 is August 17, 2022. SPA 22-0062 is subject to approval by CMS.

### **IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

To the extent that Tribal health programs provide MPX vaccines, an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing the services within Tribal Health Programs may occur. Payment will be available as a supplemental FFS payment outside of the Office of Management and Budget Indian Health Service per visit rate for Tribal 638 clinic providers.

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

To the extent that FQHCs provide these service for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, there may be an increase in those beneficiaries accessing these services. FQHCs may offer MPX vaccines and payment will be available as FFS rates outside of the PPS rates.

**IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES**

Medi-Cal beneficiaries may have increased access to the MPX vaccine, which is expected to improve health outcomes for beneficiaries receiving these services.

**RESPONSE DATE**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 5 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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