



August 13, 2024

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

Contact Information

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

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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 request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Andrea Zubiante, 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 federal approval to eliminate the alternative payment methodology (APM) for COVID-19 vaccine-only administration visits.

BACKGROUND

DHCS implemented SPA #22-0067-A to reimburse Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Tribal Health Programs (THPs) a supplemental, APM payment for COVID-19 vaccine-only encounters, when not a part of an otherwise billable FQHC, RHC, or THP visit, following the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

DHCS is seeking approval for SPA 24-0039 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to eliminate the APM reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine-only administration visits for FQHCs, RHCs, and THPs, effective October 1, 2024.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS (THPs)

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to THPs because COVID-19 vaccines are still available when administered during a billable THP visit.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to FQHCs because COVID-19 vaccines are still available when administered during a billable FQHC visit.

IMPACT TO AMERICAN INDIAN MEDI-CAL MEMBERS

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to Indian Medi-Cal members because COVID-19 vaccines are still available when administered during a billable visit.

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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