



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Quarterly Webinar on Proposed Changes to the Medi-Cal Program
August 29, 2024
Questions and Answers**

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 24-0039 – Eliminate the APM for COVID-19 Vaccine-Only Administration Visits for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Tribal Health Programs (THPs)

- 1. Question:** Can the Department provide background information for the decision to eliminate the supplemental payment for COVID-19 vaccine-only administration visits as this has now shifted the burden to administer vaccines only during a provider visit in the clinic?

DHCS Response: Vaccine administrations are considered “incident to” a visit, which means that the cost to administer the vaccine is already included in the Prospective Payment System (PPS) or All-Inclusive Rate (AIR) and would typically not be reimbursed separately. However, due to some of the unique challenges impacting FQHCs, RHCs, and THPs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department received approval from CMS for an exception to temporarily allow a separate reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine-only visits. With SPA 24-0039, the Department is proposing to eliminate the separate payment and revert to the Department’s standard reimbursement policy for FQHCs, RHCs, and THPs. Vaccine administrations will continue to be reimbursed at the PPS or AIR as part of a billable visit with a billable provider.

- 2. Question:** Can the Department send the PowerPoint Presentation slides to view?

DHCS Response: The PowerPoint Presentation will be posted on the [DHCS Indian Health Program Meetings, Webinars, and Presentations](#) webpage.