



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 3, 2024

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO UPDATE MEDI-CAL REHABILITATIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES, EXPANDED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES, AND MEDICATION- ASSISTED TREATMENT CLINICAL TRAINEE PROVIDER TYPES

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 24-0041 by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 24-0041 proposes changes to the Medi-Cal Rehabilitative Mental Health Services, Targeted Case Management, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, Expanded Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, and Medication-Assisted Treatment clinical trainee provider types.

The purpose of this SPA is to update the definition of clinical trainee provider types that are authorized to provide Medi-Cal specialty mental health and substance use disorder services. These changes effectuate the goals of DHCS' California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, including the Behavioral Health Administrative Integration project. The CalAIM Behavioral Health Administrative Integration project aims to facilitate greater access to services, improve quality of services, and provide a more integrated care experience for beneficiaries with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder conditions, including by aligning the practitioner types that are authorized to deliver mental health and substance use disorder services, and corresponding definitions, where clinically appropriate.

DHCS requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning proposed SPA 24-0041, which is attached.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures will be budget neutral by \$0 in total funds.



The effective date of the proposed SPA is April 1, 2024. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Public Review and Comments

The proposed changes included in draft SPA 24-0041 are enclosed in this notice for public comment.

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of proposed SPA 24-0041 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.aspx>

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 24-0041 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 24-0041 by submitting a request in writing to the mailing or email address listed below. Please identify SPA 24-0041 in the subject line or message making this request.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Medi-Cal Behavioral Health – Policy Division
Attn: Sergey Tyutyunik
P.O. Box 997413, MS 2702
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please identify SPA 24-0041 in the subject line or message including the comments.

To be assured DHCS considers the comments prior to submission of the SPA to CMS, comments must be received no later than June 7, 2024. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after June 7, 2024, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA 24-0041 to CMS.

(13) Pharmacists

Pharmacists must be licensed in accordance with applicable State of California licensure requirements.

(14) Occupational Therapists (OT)

Occupational therapists must be licensed in accordance with applicable State of California licensure requirements.

(15) Other Qualified Provider

An individual at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent degree plus two years of related paid or non-paid experience (including experience as a service recipient or caregiver of a service recipient), or related secondary education.

(16) Clinical Trainee

A clinical trainee is an unlicensed individual who is enrolled in a post secondary educational degree program ~~in the State of California~~ that is required for the individual to obtain licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Professional, **Pharmacist, or Physician Assistant**; is participating in a practicum, clerkship, or internship approved by the individual's program; and meets all relevant requirements of the program and/or the applicable licensing board to participate in the practicum, clerkship or internship and provide Targeted Case Management, including, but not limited to, all coursework and supervised practice requirements.

F. Freedom of Choice (42 CFR 441.18(A)(1))

The State assures that the provision of case management services will not restrict an individual's free choice of providers in violation of section 1902(a)(23) of the Act.

1. Eligible individuals will have free choice of any qualified Medicaid provider within the specified geographic area identified in this plan.
2. Eligible individuals will have free choice of any qualified Medicaid providers of other medical care under the plan.

G. Freedom of Choice Exception (Section 1915(g)(1) and 42 CFR 441.18(b))

Target group consists of eligible individuals who meet medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services. Providers are limited to qualified Medicaid providers of case management services employed by or contracted with the county mental health department who are capable of ensuring that individuals receive needed services.

H. Access to Services (42 CFR 441.18(A)(2), 42 CFR 441.18(a)(3), 42 CFR 441.18(a)(6))

The State assures the following:

- Targeted case management services will not be used to restrict an individual's access to other services under the plan.
- Individuals will not be compelled to receive case management services, condition receipt of targeted case management on the receipt of other Medicaid services, or condition receipt of other Medicaid services on receipt of targeted case management services; and

direction of: a physician; a licensed or waived psychologist; a licensed, waived or registered social worker; a licensed, waived or registered marriage and family therapist; a licensed, waived or registered professional clinical counselor; a registered nurse (including a certified nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner); or a licensed occupational therapist¹. All providers of Rehabilitative Mental Health Services must act within the scope of their professional license and applicable state law.

PRACTITIONER QUALIFICATIONS

	Rehabilitative Mental Health Treatment Services						
	Assessment	Medication Support Services	Peer Support Services	Psychosocial Rehabilitation	Referral and Linkages	Therapy	Treatment Planning
Provider Qualifications	L, M, PA, Ph, OP, MA, CT	CT, L, MA, PA, Ph	P	L, M, PA, Ph, OP, MA, CT	L, M, PA, Ph, OP, MA, CT	L, CT	L, M, PA, Ph, OP, MA, CT

CT = Clinical Trainee

A clinical trainee is an unlicensed individual who is enrolled in a post-secondary educational degree program ~~in the State of California~~ that is required for the individual to obtain licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Professional, **Pharmacist, or Physician Assistant**; is participating in a practicum, clerkship, or internship approved by the individual's program; and meets all relevant requirements of the program and/or applicable licensing board to participate in the practicum, clerkship or internship and provide rehabilitative mental health services, including, but not limited to, all coursework and supervised practice requirements.

L= Licensed Mental Health Professional

A Licensed Mental Health Professional includes any of the following providers who are licensed in accordance with applicable State of California licensure requirements: licensed physicians; licensed psychologists (includes waived psychologists); licensed clinical social workers (includes waived or registered clinical social workers); licensed professional clinical counselors (includes waived or registered professional clinical counselors); licensed marriage and family therapists (includes waived or registered marriage and family therapists); registered nurses (includes certified nurse specialists and nurse practitioners); licensed vocational nurses; licensed psychiatric technicians; and licensed occupational therapists.

¹ Licensed occupational therapists meet the requirements of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of 42 CFR 440.110.

“SUD Crisis Intervention Services” consists of contacts with a beneficiary in crisis. A crisis means an actual relapse or an unforeseen event or circumstance which presents to the beneficiary an imminent threat of relapse. SUD Crisis Intervention Services shall focus on alleviating the crisis problem, be limited to the stabilization of the beneficiary's immediate situation, and be provided in the least intensive level of care that is medically necessary to treat their condition.

PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS

Provider Entities

SUD Treatment Services are provided by DMC certified providers. DMC certified providers providing SUD Treatment Services must: 1) be licensed, registered, enrolled, and/or approved in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations; 2) abide by the definitions, rules, and requirements for stabilization and rehabilitation services established by the Department of Health Care Services; and 3) sign a provider agreement with a county or the Department of Health Care Services.

	SUD Treatment Services						
	Assessment*	Counseling (Individual and Group)	Medical Psychotherapy	Medication Services	Patient Education	Peer Support Services	SUD Crisis Intervention
Practitioner Qualifications	C, CT, L*, MA	C, CT, L	M	CT, L, MA	C, CT, L, MA	P	C, CT, L

C = Counselors

An Alcohol or other drug (AOD) counselor that is either certified or registered by an organization that is recognized by the Department of Health Care Services and accredited with the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

CT = Clinical Trainee

A clinical trainee is an unlicensed individual who is enrolled in a post-secondary educational degree program ~~in the State of California~~ that is required for the individual to obtain licensure as a Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts; is participating in a practicum, clerkship, or internship approved by the individual's program; and meets all relevant requirements of the program and/or the applicable licensing board to participate in the practicum, clerkship or internship and provide substance use disorder treatment services, including, but not limited to, all coursework and supervised practice requirements.

L= Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts

A Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA) include any of the following: Physician, Nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant (PA),

TN No: 24-0041
Supersedes
TN No: 23-0026

Approval Date:

Effective Date: April 1, 2024

	Expanded SUD Treatment Services											
	Assessment *	Care Coordination **	Crisis Intervention	Family Therapy	Counseling (Individual and Group)	Medical Psychotherapy	Medication Services	Patient Education	Peer Support Services	Observation	Recovery Services	Prescribing and Monitoring of MAT for AUD and Other Non-Opioid Substance Use Disorders
Practitioner Qualifications	C, CT, L*, MA	C, CT, L, MA	C, CT, L	CT, L	C, CT, L	M	CT, L, MA	C, CT, L, MA	P	C, CT, L, MA	C, CT, L, MA	CT, L***, MA

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L = Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts

A Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA) include any of the following: Physician, Nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant (PA), Registered Nurse, Registered Pharmacist, Licensed Clinical Psychologist (LCP), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Registered**** CSW, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC), Registered**** LPCC, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Registered**** MFT, Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Licensed Occupational Therapist (LOT)*****, and Licensed Psychiatric Technician (LPT) .

PRACTITIONER QUALIFICATIONS

Provider Entities

All MAT for OUD services are provided by DMC certified providers. DMC certified providers providing MAT for OUD services must: 1) be licensed, registered, enrolled, and/or approved in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations; 2) abide by the definitions, rules, and requirements for stabilization and rehabilitation services established by the Department of Health Care Services; and 3) sign a provider agreement with a county or the Department of Health Care Services, if applicable.

Practitioners

MAT for OUD Services							
	Assessment*	Crisis Intervention	Counseling (Individual and Group)	Medical Psychotherapy	Medication Services	Patient Education	Prescribing and monitoring of MAT for OUD
Practitioner Qualifications	C, CT, L*, MA	C, CT, L	C, CT, L	M	CT, L, MA	C, CT, L, MA	CT, L**, MA

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direction of: a physician; a licensed or waived psychologist; a licensed, waived or registered social worker; a licensed, waived or registered marriage and family therapist; a licensed, waived or registered professional clinical counselor; a registered nurse (including a certified nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner); or a licensed occupational therapist¹. All providers of Rehabilitative Mental Health Services must act within the scope of their professional license and applicable state law.

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