

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) PROPOSES TO SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA) TO ADD THE DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM (DPP) TO THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM.

DHCS proposes to submit SPAs 18-0040 and 18-0041 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals to clearly define the Medi-Cal DPP in the State Plan and Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP), pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 97 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 52, Statutes of 2017) and Assembly Bill 1810 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 34, Statutes of 2018). The effective date for both SPAs will be January 1, 2019.

Additionally, this notice provides information of public interest with respect to Section 440.386 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which requires Medicaid states to publish a public notice to solicit public input regarding the amendment to the Medi-Cal ABP. DHCS assures full access to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services for people under 21 years of age, as described by 42 CFR 440.345 as well as full access to the DPP for eligible beneficiaries, as described by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14149.9. DHCS will submit SPA 18-0040 and SPA 18-0041 to CMS to seek the necessary approval to add requirements for admission into the DPP. It will also add unlicensed peer coaches under the direct supervision of a licensed practitioner, as well as licensed practitioners, to the list of health care professionals whose services for DPP are reimbursable as part of a Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program (DPRP). DHCS complies with the provisions of section 5006(e) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by publishing the Tribal Notice for SPA 18-0040 on November 20, 2018, and will hold a tribal webinar on November 30, 2018. DHCS will submit SPA 18-0041 to the CMS to seek the necessary approval to incorporate DPP services under the Medi-Cal program in the ABP, as defined pursuant to SB 97.

Defining Coverage for the DPP

The DPP is an evidence-based, lifestyle change program designed to assist Medi-Cal beneficiaries diagnosed with prediabetes to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. DPP services are provided through trained peer coaches who use a curriculum approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Medi-Cal providers can recommend participation in the DPP to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries who meet the eligibility requirements of the CDC's DPRP. The DPP core benefit lasts one year and additional less intensive ongoing maintenance sessions are also provided for eligible beneficiaries who achieve and maintain a required minimum weight loss of 5 percent from the first core session.

Public Review and Comment

The California statute discussed above is available at www.leginfo.com. Interested parties may submit written comments, request copies of the statute, and/or request copies the written comments to Jim Elliott, Chief, Benefits Analysis Section; DHCS; MS

4601; P.O. Box 997417; Sacramento, CA 95899-7417. All written comments must be received by December 15, 2018.

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