



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: March 20, 2025

PROPOSED RATE ADDITION TO THE DRUG MEDI-CAL ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM TO INCLUDE TRADITIONAL HEALTH CARE PRACTICES

This notice is to provide information of public interest regarding the rates associated with the federal approval of the Section 1115 waiver, as part of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, as it relates to Traditional Health Care Practices. The proposed changes will add services rendered by Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers for Medi-Cal members who meet Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System access criteria, receive coverage through a DMC-ODS county, and access Traditional Healer or Natural Helper services through participating Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs) that meet established criteria for offering these new benefits. Participating IHCPs may include Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities, facilities operated by Tribes or Tribal organizations (Tribal Facilities) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and facilities operated by Urban Indian Organizations (UIO facilities) under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

The added services will be paid at a per encounter rate. DHCS will pay the All-Inclusive Rate (AIR) for Traditional Health Care Practices rendered by Tribal health providers and practitioner types who are eligible to claim at the AIR (this is inclusive of both Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers), as described in [Behavioral Health Information Notice \(BHIN\) 22-053](#). For services rendered by provider and practitioner types ineligible to bill at the AIR for Traditional Healer and Natural Helper services, including all practitioners working with Urban Indian Organizations, DHCS will utilize alternate rates. Traditional Healer services will be paid at an AIR-equivalent rate, currently \$801.00 (for CY 2025) per encounter. Natural Helper services will be paid at a rate of \$335.37 (for FY 2024-25) per encounter. The rates may be adjusted annually.

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



The effective date of the proposed Traditional Health Care Practice Implementation BHIN is March 21, 2025.

The proposed rates for each DMC-ODS county may also be viewed on the [Behavioral Health Fee Schedule](#) page.

Public Review and Comments

To comment on this notice, please either email or mail comments as instructed below. Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Local Governmental Financing Division
Attn: **Kenneth Rhodes**
P.O. Box 997413, MS 2629
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line "Traditional Health Care Practices Rates."

A copy of the Traditional Health Care Practices Implementation BHIN will be published at the following internet address:

https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/Behavioral_Health_Information_Notice.aspx.

If you would like to view the Traditional Health Care Practices BHIN in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department (addresses and contact information available at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medical/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>). You may also request a copy of the BHIN as well as submitted public comments related to the BHIN and this notice by submitting a request in writing to the mailing or email address above.