

**Department of Health Care Services  
Proposed Trailer Bill Legislation**

**Cognitive Health Assessment Training and Reporting**

**FACT SHEET**

**Issue: Cognitive Health Assessment Training and Reporting.** The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to remove the cognitive health assessment training and biannual reporting requirement currently funded by the Home and Community-Based Services Spending Plan Dementia Care Aware initiative, which is set to end January 31, 2025.

**Background:** SB 48 (Limon, Chapter 484, Statutes of 2021) expands the Medi-Cal schedule of benefits to include an annual cognitive health assessment for Medi-Cal Members who are 65 years of age and older if they are otherwise ineligible for a similar assessment as part of an annual wellness visit through the Medicare program. The annual cognitive health assessment should identify signs of Alzheimer's disease or dementia, consistent with the standards for detecting cognitive impairment under the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the recommendations by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). To receive payment for this assessment, Medi-Cal Providers must complete training through Dementia Care Aware and use validated tools recommended by DHCS. DHCS tracks which providers have completed the approved training and provides this information to Medi-Cal managed care plans so they can condition provider payment on training completion.

Funded through the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan, DHCS launched the Dementia Care Aware initiative and contracted with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to develop a training, maintain a website, track training completion, and provide Continuing Medical Education to providers who complete the training. Existing law also requires biannual mandatory posting of information to the DHCS website on the utilization of, and payment for, the cognitive health assessment benefit in the Medi-Cal managed care and fee-for-service delivery systems. DHCS posted the first such [Cognitive Health Assessment Utilization Report](#) on December 29, 2023.

**Justification for the Change:** Given that the HCBS Spending Plan funding will end January 31, 2025, DHCS proposes to remove the training and biannual reporting requirement currently funded by the HCBS Spending Plan Dementia Care Aware initiative.

The cognitive health assessment benefit will continue to be available to providers for screening Medi-Cal beneficiaries as currently specified. DHCS intends to transition the Dementia Care Aware website over to the DHCS website.