



February 21, 2025

To: Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of Indian Health Programs, and Urban Indian Organizations

Subject: Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding a proposed change to the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Medi-Cal Program that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DHCS is forwarding this information for your review and comment.

DHCS is required to seek advice from designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on Medi-Cal matters having a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). DHCS must solicit the advice of designees prior to submission to CMS of any State Plan Amendment (SPA), waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

Please see the enclosed summary for a detailed description of this DHCS proposal.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comment may be sent by email to Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

Department of Health Care Services
Director's Office
ATTN: Angeli Lee
MS 0000
P.O. Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

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and Urban Indian Organizations

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In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this SPA in the next quarterly Medi-Cal Indian Health webinar. Please note that Tribes, Indian Health Programs, and Urban Indian Organizations may request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Andrea Zubiato, Chief
Office of Tribal Affairs
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Notice

PURPOSE

To seek federal approval to provide eligible juveniles (under 21 years of age and former foster children ages up to age 26 years) who are post adjudication in a public institution certain screenings and diagnostic services in the 30-days prior to scheduled release, and targeted case management (TCM) in the 30 days leading up to their release and for 30 days after release from a public institution.

BACKGROUND

DHCS must submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0006 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to attest to compliance with federal law¹ to provide screenings, diagnostic services, and TCM to eligible individuals. Eligible individuals are defined as individuals who are under 21 years of age and determined eligible for any Medi-Cal eligibility group as well as former foster care children ages 18 to 26, or former foster children up to age 26 who are within 30 days of their scheduled release date from a public institution following adjudication, according to federal law.²

DHCS began providing Justice-Involved (JI) Reentry Initiative services on October 1, 2024, through a federal Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver.³ The initiative provides crucial medical and behavioral health services, including care coordination, for Medi-Cal eligible adults and youth in state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities in the 90 days before their release. CMS is requiring⁴ states to submit a SPA with an effective date of January 1, 2025, attesting to their compliance with federal Consolidated Appropriations Act.⁵ If DHCS needs to submit a SPA in addition to its authority of the waiver, it will submit SPA 25-0006 to CMS by March 31, 2025.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

DHCS is seeking to attest to coverage of the following Medi-Cal services to eligible juveniles, as described above:

- Medical, dental, and behavioral health screenings and diagnostic services, provided in accordance with Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) guidelines. Services would be provided within 30 days prior to release or not later than one week after release, or as soon as practicable.
- Targeted Case Management: Medi-Cal will provide TCM beginning 30 days before release and continuing for 30 days after release. Services will include referrals to appropriate care and services available near the juvenile's home or residence, if possible.

These services would be available in both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

¹ [Social Security Act, section 1902\(a\)\(84\)](#)

² [Social Security Act, section 1902\(nn\)\(2\)](#)

³ [CalAIM Reentry Initiative Demonstration Approval](#)

⁴ [State Health Official Letter #24-004](#)

⁵ [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#), section 5121



The proposed effective date for State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0006 would be January 1, 2025. SPA 25-0006 is subject to approval by CMS.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

To the extent that Tribal Health Programs participate in justice involved services and provide screening and diagnostic services, and TCM to eligible individuals, those Medi-Cal members may access services more frequently.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

To the extent that FQHCs provide screening and diagnostic services, and TCM for eligible juveniles, those Medi-Cal members may access services more frequently.

IMPACT TO AMERICAN INDIAN MEDI-CAL MEMBERS

Eligible juveniles may have increased access to these benefits, which is expected to improve health outcomes.

RESPONSE DATE

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of the notice.

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