Lee, Angeli (EXEC-DIR)@DHCS

From: DHCS Director (DIR)@DHCS <DHCSDirector@DHCS.CA.GOV>
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To: DHCSSTAKEHOLDERS@MAILLIST.DHS.CA.GOV
Subject: Medi-Cal 2020 News

Medi-Cal 2020 News

News and notes about California's Medicaid demonstration programs

December 13, 2016

Waiver Amendments

CMS Approves Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver Amendments

On December 8, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved two amendments to the Special Terms and Conditions of California's Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver. These amendments expand the Whole Person Care (WPC) pilots to allow certain tribal groups to lead projects, and change payment methodologies for part of the Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI).

One amendment authorizes the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to include Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Health Programs as lead entities for the WPC pilots. The other allows DHCS to modify the payment methodology for Domain 1 of the DTI, which targets increases in preventive dental services for California children. The amendments are effective as of December 8, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

The WPC amendment allows Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Health Programs to act in a lead entity role in the design, application, and operation of a WPC pilot program. The addition of these entities promotes the intent and goals of the WPC program to coordinate health, behavioral health, and social services in a patient-centered manner to improve beneficiary health and well-being.

The DTI amendment modifies the methodology for determining baseline metrics for incentive payments and provides payments for a revised threshold of annual increases in dental preventive services provided to children. This amendment supports the DTI program's aim to increase use of preventive services for children in Medi-Cal.

The approval documents will be posted to the Medi-Cal 2020 website by Friday, December 16. More information also is available on the WPC webpage and the DTI webpage.

Miscellaneous

DHCS Proposes Waiver Change to Add Medi-Cal Access Program to Managed Care

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is seeking to amend the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) of the Medi-Cal 2020 waiver to add the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) population to the Medi-Cal Managed Care (MMC) delivery system, effective July 1, 2017.

MCAP provides low-cost health insurance coverage to uninsured pregnant women with income at 213%-322% of the Federal Poverty Level; qualifying women with private insurance that requires a separate deductible or co-payment of $500 or more for maternity coverage also are eligible. MCAP coverage ends the last day of the month in which the 60th day following the end of the pregnancy occurs.

MCAP was previously a program under the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board; it transitioned to DHCS in 2014. Since then, DHCS has maintained the existing MCAP health plan delivery system to minimize care disruption.

With applications for MCAP now included in the California Health Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) – and with the aim of efficiently providing comprehensive, coordinated care to women covered by MCAP – DHCS intends to transition MCAP enrollees into the MMC delivery system. All new MCAP enrollees would be enrolled starting July 1, 2017 into a Medi-Cal managed care plan operating in their county of residence.

To minimize care disruption, women enrolled into MCAP prior to July 1, 2017 will continue to receive care under the Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service delivery system. There would be no changes in the manner in which premiums are billed and collected.

Additional information is available on the MCAP website. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at 1115Waiver@dhcs.ca.gov.