



# Medi-Cal Doula Benefit

## Stakeholder Meeting March 29, 2022

DHCS Benefits Division

# Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding

- » **The COVID-19 PHE will end soon and millions of Medi-Cal beneficiaries may lose their coverage.**
- » **Top Goal of DHCS:** Minimize beneficiary burden and promote continuity of coverage for our beneficiaries.
- » **How you can help:**
  - » Become a **DHCS Coverage Ambassador**
  - » Download the Outreach Toolkit on the [DHCS Coverage Ambassador webpage](#)
  - » [Join the DHCS Coverage Ambassador mailing list](#) to receive updated toolkits as they become available

# DHCS PHE Unwind Communications Strategy

- **Phase One: Encourage Beneficiaries to Update Contact Information**
  - **Launch immediately**
  - Multi-channel communication campaign to encourage beneficiaries to update contact information with county offices.
    - » Flyers in provider/clinic offices, social media, call scripts, website banners
- **Phase Two: Watch for Renewal Packets in the mail. Remember to update your contact information!**
  - **Launch 60 days prior to COVID-19 PHE termination.**
  - Remind beneficiaries to watch for renewal packets in the mail and update contact information with county office if they have not done so yet.

# Agenda

Agenda Items		
1.	Welcome and introductory remarks (10 minutes) Introduction of Deitre Epps (RACE For Equity) as Workgroup Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>René Mollow, MSN, RN, Deputy Director, Health Care Benefits and Eligibility</li><li>Lisa Murawski, Chief, Benefits Division</li></ul>
2.	Clarify roles of DHCS Benefits Division and doula stakeholder workgroup (20 minutes)	DHCS Staff and Workgroup Members
3.	Review benefit implementation timeline and responsibility areas (15 minutes)	DHCS Staff and Workgroup Members
4.	Review draft State Plan Amendment (SPA) language (60 minutes)	DHCS Staff and Workgroup Members
5.	Wrap-up and Next Steps (15 minutes)	DHCS Staff

# Timeline

- » The timeline depicts major milestones, responsibility areas, and target dates.
  - » The timeline does not reflect all activities and responsibilities
- » Please note that **all dates are subject to change.**

# March 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Stakeholder workgroup  
meeting on March 29.

# April 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Stakeholder workgroup meeting at the end of April.

Submit informal draft SPA to federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by mid-April.

Need to identify billing codes and “modifiers” by end of April.

## HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Stakeholder workgroup meeting with Health Care Financing (the DHCS division responsible for rates.)

# May 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Receive input on draft SPA from CMS by mid-May.

Stakeholder workgroup meeting at the end of May.

## DHCS

Updated Medi-Cal budget released in the “May Revision” to the January budget.



# June 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Stakeholder workgroup meeting at the end of June.

Resolution on number of member visits needed no later than June.

Submit updated SPA language to stakeholders (early June) and CMS (by end of June).

Finalize doula qualification and requirements by end of June.

## PROVIDER ENROLLMENT DIVISION (PED)

PED needs CMS to informally approve doula qualifications in order to develop the provider application.

Other dates related to provider enrollment are to be determined.

## MANAGED CARE DIVISION

Managed Care Division will need information on the doula benefit from the Benefits Division in order to issue guidance to plans.

# July 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Receive comments from CMS by the end of June.

Stakeholder workgroup meeting at the end of July.

# August 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Tribal notice to be published by mid-August.

Finalize draft SPA by the end of August.

Stakeholder workgroup meeting at the end of August.

## HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Responsible for finalizing rates and publishing the public notice.

# September 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Formally submit SPA to CMS by the end of September.

Stakeholder workgroup meeting at the end of September.

Begin drafting Provider Manual language.

# October 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Work with CMS on SPA approval.

Ongoing work to develop the Provider Manual.

## MANAGED CARE DIVISION

Managed Care Division drafts and shares All Plan Letter (APL) with managed care plans about doula coverage requirements.

# November 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Work with CMS on SPA approval.

Submit Provider Manual to CA-MMIS (the DHCS division that administers the billing system) for publication.

## MANAGED CARE DIVISION

Managed Care Division shares draft APL with managed care plans.

# December 2022

## BENEFITS DIVISION

Goal is to have CMS approval by the end of December.

## CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

Approve the SPA

# January 2023

ALL DIVISIONS

Go-live date for the  
doula benefit.



# State Plan Amendment (SPA) Overview

- » DHCS will accept written feedback from all stakeholders at [DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov).
- » Feedback is due on **April 13**.
- » DHCS plans to informally submit the SPA to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for feedback by **April 22**.
- » The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for April 28.

# Draft SPA – Covered services

- » Doula services are provided for individuals during and following pregnancy, including childbirth and the postpartum period, to prevent perinatal complications and/or promote the physical and mental health of the beneficiary. Doulas support the pregnant individual throughout the perinatal period, with the goal of improving outcomes for birthing parents and infants. Doulas offer perinatal and labor support and guidance; health navigation; evidence-based education, including development of a birth plan; and linkages to community-based resources.

# Draft SPA – Recommendations and visits

- » Doula services are provided as preventive services pursuant to 42 CFR Section 440.130(c) and must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within their scope of practice under state law.
  - » Please note: Recommendation by a licensed practitioner is required under federal rules.
- » Prior authorization is required for more than nine visits during the perinatal period (one initial visit and eight follow-up visits).

# Draft SPA – Qualifications

- » Requirements for all doulas:
  - » Must be at least 18 years old.
  - » Possess an adult/infant CPR certification.
  - » Completion of basic HIPAA training.
  - » Three hours of continuing education in maternal, perinatal, and infant care every three years.
- » Two pathways to demonstrate qualifications:
  1. Training Pathway
  2. Experience Pathway (“Legacy Doula”)

# Draft SPA – Training Pathway

- » Complete a minimum of 16 hours of training in the following areas:
  - » Perinatal support
  - » Labor support
  - » Basic breastfeeding
  - » Basic childbirth education
  - » Foundations on anatomy of pregnancy and childbirth
  - » Hands-on support with clients
  - » Developing a resource list for community/clients
  - » Supplemental training in trauma-informed care, familiarity with maternal mental health conditions, cultural sensitivity or competency or implicit bias or anti-racism, and social determinants of health for birthing populations

# Draft SPA – Experience pathway

- » All of the following:
  - » At least seven years of doula experience in either a paid or volunteer capacity.
  - » Attestation to skills in prenatal, labor, and postpartum care as demonstrated by the following:
    - » Three written client testimonials.
    - » Three professional letters of recommendation from any of the following: a physician, pediatrician, licensed behavioral health provider, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, licensed midwife, or community-based organization. One professional letter may be from an enrolled doula.

# Alternative pathways

- » DHCS will continue to work with the workgroup to explore birth doula care that could be provided by a family member who meets certain qualifications.

# Potential Future Discussion Issues

**Not all items will be addressed  
or included in the State Plan.**

- » Additional guidance will be provided:
  - » Provider Manual
  - » Provider bulletins
  - » All Plan Letters



# Contact Information

» Written comments are welcome:

➤ [DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DoulaBenefit@dhcs.ca.gov)

» For more information:

➤ <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Doula-Services.aspx>

**Questions?**

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