



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 26, 2019

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, 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. Comments may be sent by email to HHP@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Sandra Willburn, Chief
Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



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

PURPOSE

DHCS proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0013 and 19-0037 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals for changes to the Health Homes Program (HHP). DHCS is requesting that these SPAs have an effective date of January 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Section 2703 of the Affordable Care Act¹ allows states to implement a HHP, which is designed to coordinate the full range of physical, behavioral health, and community-based long term services and supports for members with chronic conditions. DHCS submitted state plan amendments seeking CMS approval for implementation of the HHP (as authorized by Assembly Bill 361²) beginning in 2017. HHP implementation is a phased in process of counties within specific groups. Groups 1 and 2 which have included changes to the HHP implementation schedule and the expansion of HHP services were previously approved by CMS. SPAs 19-0013 and 19-0037 will implement Groups 3 and 4 below:

Group 1 – San Francisco County

Group 2 – Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Group 3 – Alameda, Kern, Los Angeles, Imperial, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Tulare Counties

Group 4 – Orange County

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

It is anticipated that these SPAs will be submitted to CMS on Monday, September 30, 2019.

- SPA 19-0013 will provide HHP services for members with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance for the Group 3 counties on January 1, 2020.
- SPA 19-0037 will provide HHP services for members with physical health/substance use disorder (SUD) chronic conditions for Group 4 in Orange County on January 1, 2020.

¹ Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148) enacted on March 23, 2010 is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/3590> as revised by the Health Care & Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-152), enacted on March 30, 2010. is available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/4872>:

² Assembly Bill 361 (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2013 is available at: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB361



IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

SPA 19-0013 and 19-0037 may impact Tribal Health Programs because they have the option to become HHP providers within the local community as a community-based care management entity. Medi-Cal managed care health plans will select and certify local community-based providers to provide HHP services.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

The changes may impact FQHCs because they have the option to become HHP providers within the local community as a community-based care management entity. Medi-Cal managed care health plans will select and certify local community-based providers to provide HHP services.

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

SPA 19-0013 may increase access to care coordination services for American Indians with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance in Alameda, Kern, Los Angeles, Imperial, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Tulare counties. Additionally, American Indians with physical health/SUD chronic conditions in Orange County may have greater access to care coordination services as a result of SPA 19-0037. HHP services are entirely optional for members.

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 notice. Comments may be sent by email to HHP@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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