



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 5, 2018

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

FROM: Original Signed By Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief,
Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division

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

The purpose of this memo 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 Nathaniel.Emery@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

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

Please note that Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Enclosure



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

PURPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0007 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals to add licensed professional clinical counselors (LPCCs) and associate professional clinical counselors (APCCs) as providers of Medi-Cal mental health psychotherapy services. SPA 19-0007 also seeks to update the title of marriage and family therapist intern (MFTI) to associate marriage and family therapist (AMFT).

BACKGROUND

Welfare and Institutions Code¹ required DHCS to expand mental health services covered by Medi-Cal. SPA 14-012 previously added MFTs, MFTIs, associate clinical social workers, and psychological assistants to the State Plan. LPCCs are considered to be equivalent to marriage and family therapists (MFTs) and licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs) in California and are often listed together in California law. The Board of Behavioral Sciences implemented the change in title of “marriage and family therapist intern” to “associate marriage and family therapist,” as required by Senate Bill 1478.²

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

DHCS plans to submit SPA 19-0007 to CMS with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2019. This SPA proposes to authorize LPCCs and APCCs as providers of Medi-Cal mental health psychotherapy services and to update the title of MFTI to AMFT.

In addition, the SPA states that AMFTs and APCCs must be under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional, in accordance with the requirements of applicable state laws and regulations.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

To the extent that Tribal Health Programs provide mental health psychotherapy services, this SPA may expand access to mental health services by increasing the number of providers who can provide mental health services.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

To the extent that FQHCs provide mental health psychotherapy services, this SPA may expand access to mental health services and increase the number of providers who can provide mental health services. This SPA does not establish the services of LPCCs and APCCs as “visits” for purposes of reimbursing FQHC services.

¹ Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 14132.03 is available at:
http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=14132.03&lawCode=WIC

² Senate Bill 1478 Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. Chapter 489, Statutes of 2016) is available at:
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/sen/sb_1451-1500/sb_1478_bill_20160922_chaptered.html



IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

Medi-Cal beneficiaries may experience improved access to mental health services.

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 Nathaniel.Emery@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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