



**Tribal and Designee Medi-Cal Advisory Process  
Webinar on Proposed Changes to the  
Medi-Cal Program  
August 30, 2017**



# Purpose

- ❑ The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is hosting this webinar regarding proposed changes to the Medi-Cal Program. This webinar will provide information and allow for feedback on State Plan Amendments (SPA) and Waiver Renewals/Amendments proposed for submission to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- ❑ Background: Executive Orders recognize the unique relationship of Tribes with the federal government and emphasize the importance of States to work with Tribes on matters that may impact Indian health.
- ❑ This webinar is one way for DHCS to provide information about the Medi-Cal program and get feedback verbally and writing.



# Agenda

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Welcome/Overview	Andrea Zubiante, DHCS, Indian Health Program (IHP) Coordinator
<b>SPAs Scheduled for Submission by September 30, 2017</b>	
Medi-Cal Non-medical Transportation Services: Proposed Changes SPAs 17-017 and 17-018	Jim Elliott, Manager DHCS Benefits Division
Feedback/Closing	All



# Medicaid State Plan Overview

State Plan: The official contract between the state and federal government by which a state ensure compliance with federal Medicaid requirements to be eligible for federal funding.

The State Plan describes the nature and scope of Medicaid program and gives assurance that it will be administered in accordance with the specific requirements of Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter IV, and State law/regulations.

California's State Plan is over 1400 pages and can be accessed online at:

[http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/  
CaliforniStatePlan.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/CaliforniStatePlan.aspx)



# State Plan Amendment (SPA) Overview

SPA: Any formal change to the State Plan.

Approved State Plans and SPAs ensure the availability of federal funding for the state's program (Medi-Cal).

The CMS reviews all State Plans and SPAs for compliance with:

- Federal Medicaid statutes and regulations

- State Medicaid manual

- Most current State Medicaid Directors' Letters, which serve as policy guidance.



# Medi-Cal Non-medical Transportation Services: Proposed Changes SPAs 17-017 and 17-018

Jim Elliott, Manager  
DHCS Benefits Division



# Purpose

DHCS proposes to submit State Plan Amendments 17-017 and 17-018 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to seek necessary approvals to define non-medical transportation (NMT) services under Medi-Cal, in the State Plan and Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP).



# Background

Existing state law provides for nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) services under Medi-Cal. NEMT services include transportation by litter vans, wheelchair vans, and ambulances when ordinary public or private transportation is medically not advised and transportation is required for obtaining needed medical care. Assembly Bill (AB) 2394 amended the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) to authorize NEMT by public and private modes of transportation for Medi-Cal.



# Proposed Changes

## PROPOSED CHANGES

Effective July 1, 2017, and as authorized by AB 2394, Medi-Cal intends to clearly define in the SP NMT services for all eligible beneficiaries to travel to and from covered medical, mental health, substance use disorder (SUD), and dental services. The SPA will explain that NMT services also includes mileage reimbursement when transportation is in a private vehicle. NMT services provided under the Medi-Cal ABP will be the same schedule of NMT services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, as when required by the WIC.

Currently, beneficiaries enrolled in a managed care health plan (MCP) receive NMT services through their MCP while beneficiaries covered under Medi-Cal fee-for-service receive NMT services through the County-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program or their local county social services office.



# Impact

## **TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

Because NMT services will be clearly defined in the SP and ABP, tribal health programs may experience an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing medical, mental health, SUD, and dental services as a result of access to NMT. Programs and organizations may also experience an increase in the time spent with beneficiaries who need assistance accessing NMT services.

## **FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)**

Because NMT services will be clearly defined in the SP and ABP, FQHCs may experience an increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries accessing medical, mental health, SUD, and dental services as a result of access to NMT. FQHCs may experience an increase in the time spent with beneficiaries who need assistance accessing NMT.

## **IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES**

Because NMT services will be clearly defined in the SP and ABP, eligible Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries will be able to receive necessary NMT services to and from medically necessary covered Medi-Cal benefits.



# Contact Information

Jim Elliott

Department of Health Care Services

Benefits Division

1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4601

PO Box 997413

Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

**[Jim.Elliott@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.Elliott@dhcs.ca.gov)**



**THANK YOU**