

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) TRIBAL AND
DESIGNEES OF INDIAN HEALTH PROGRAMS QUARTERLY WEBINAR
ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 25, 2024
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0009 – Adds Psychological Associate Services, Removes Change of Scope Requirement When Adding Newly Marriage and Family Therapist Services & Makes a Technical Correction

1. Question: What specifically is the change to intermittent clinic hours of operation? What was the current law reference?

DHCS Response: The State Plan currently reads that intermittent clinic hours are 20 hours per week. Since this provision has changed, DHCS is making technical corrections to update policy so that the State Plan aligns with current law. The changes are outlined in Health & Safety Code (HSC) 1206(h).

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0014 – Certified Wellness Coach as a New Benefit

1. Question: If Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) do not get reimbursed, then how would this increase services for Native American populations? Is this dependent on a contract relationship with the schools? Is this waiver likely to be expanded in the future?

DHCS Response: The proposed plan to add Certified Wellness Coach (CWC) services as a preventive service, published on December 31, 2024, suggests that FQHCs and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) will receive extra payment through an Alternative Payment Methodology (APM) equal to the established Medi-Cal Fee-For-Services (FFS) rate when CWC services are provided on the same or different day as the Prospective Payment System (PPS)-eligible visit.

The DHCS expects that Medi-Cal members, including Native Americans, may have better access to this benefit. A separate notice will be published to explain how this affects FQHCs.

In early 2025, the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Fee Schedule will add CWC services, pending approval from CMS. DHCS also expects that some Tribal Health Programs (THPs) and FQHCs working with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) may be impacted. These affiliated providers have agreements with LEAs to receive student referrals for CYBHI services and get reimbursed directly by a Third-Party Administrator (TPA).

The CYBHI Fee Schedule program is not operated under a federal waiver authority. DHCS is authorized to operate the CYBHI Fee Schedule program pursuant to the California Welfare and Institutions Section 5961.4 and Health and Safety Code Section 1374.60.

To learn more the CYBHI Fee Schedule program, visit www.dhcs.ca.gov/CYBHI/Pages/Fee-Schedule.