



MICHELLE BAASS
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

February 22, 2023

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 (SPA), 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 Angeli.Lee@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

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

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

Page 2

February 22, 2023

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Andrea Zubiato, Chief
Office of Tribal Affairs
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



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

PURPOSE

To seek the necessary approvals to establish an alternate payment methodology for dyadic services from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

BACKGROUND

The California Welfare and Institutions Code section 14132.755 authorizes dyadic¹ behavioral health (DBH) well-child visits be provided for the child and caregiver or parent at medical visits, provided that they are screening for behavioral health problems, interpersonal safety, tobacco or substance use, or social determinants of health.

DHCS proposes to add dyadic services for the child ages 0 – 20 years and their caregivers. This benefit is designed to treat caregivers and children together, targeting family well-being as a mechanism to support healthy child development and mental health. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Tribal Health Programs (THPs) will be reimbursed a fee-for-service (FFS) rate for dyadic services. Dyadic Services must be billed under the child/youth Medi-Cal ID.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

FQHCs, RHCs, and THPs will be reimbursed a FFS rate for dyadic services that includes Behavioral Health Well-Child Visits, Comprehensive Community Support Services, Psychoeducational Services, Family Training, and Counseling for Child Development. In addition, dyadic services will include screening, and brief intervention services provided to a caregiver for the benefit of the child.

The proposed effective date for SPA 23-0010 is one day after the public notice is published. SPA 23-0010 is subject to approval by CMS.

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

THPs will be able to receive Medi-Cal FFS reimbursement for dyadic services provided to caregivers of beneficiaries as part of the child/caregiver dyad. DHCS anticipates this proposal will increase access to preventive care for children, improve care coordination, support child social-emotional health and safety, and encourage developmentally appropriate parenting and caregiver mental health.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

FQHCs will be able to receive Medi-Cal FFS reimbursement for dyadic services provided to caregivers of beneficiaries as part of the child/caregiver dyad. DHCS anticipates this proposal will increase access to preventive care for children, improve care coordination, support child social-emotional health and safety, and encourage developmentally appropriate parenting, and caregiver mental health.

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

As a result of this proposal, Medi-Cal beneficiaries may have increased access mental health and social support services for both them and their caregivers, which is expected to improve health outcomes for beneficiaries receiving these services.

¹ State law is searchable at the following link: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>.

RESPONSE DATE

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