



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT PLAN (ABP)

This notice provides information of public interest about a proposed SPA by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The proposed SPA 24-0038 will expand the list of providers who can supervise Community Health Workers (CHWs). DHCS also proposed technical edits to the ABP section of the State Plan to include recent changes to specialty mental health services and to clarify coverage of behavioral health treatment (BHT).

DHCS will submit SPA 24-0037 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to add pharmacies to the list of providers who can supervise CHWs. SPA 24-0038 proposed to make the same change in the ABP. Currently, licensed providers, hospitals, community-based organizations, local health jurisdictions, and clinics as defined in 42 CFR 440.90, may supervise CHWs.

In addition, SPA 24-0038 will make technical updates to the ABP to update the description of BHT to align with SPA 24-0031. These updates include clarifying that BHT services are available to any Medi-Cal member under 21 years of age for whom a physician or psychologist determines they are medical necessary and that a diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder is not required.

DHCS also seeks technical edits to align the ABP with updates made from the following SPAs for specialty mental health services:

- SPA 20-0006B, which added medication-assisted treatment, effective October 1, 2020.
- SPA 21-0051, which added peer support services and included peer support specialists as a distinct provider type, effective July 1, 2022.
- SPA 21-0058, which expanded substance use disorder treatment services as part of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Services, effective January 1, 2022.



- SPA 22-0043, which added Qualifying Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services, effective January 1, 2023.

Additionally, this notice provides information of public interest with respect to Section 440.386 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which requires Medicaid states to publish a public notice to solicit public input regarding the amendment to the Medi-Cal ABP. DHCS provides a comprehensive set of services under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit for individuals under 21 years of age, as described by 42 CFR 440.345. DHCS complied with the provisions of Section 5006 (e) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; DHCS published a tribal notice on August 23, 2024, and held a tribal webinar on August 29, 2024.

SPA 24-0038 is subject to approval by CMS.

Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 24-0038 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.aspx>

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 24-0038 using the mailing or email addresses listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Benefits Division
Attn: Jim Elliott
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 24-0038 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 24-0038 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.