



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: MARCH 11, 2025

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) PROPOSES TO SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA) TO AMEND THE ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT PLAN (ABP)

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed SPA #25-0007 by DHCS. SPA #25-0007 seeks federal approval to align the Alternate Benefit Plan (ABP) with the updates made by SPAs 24-0003, 24-0031, 24-0042, 24-0052, 25-0006, 25-0009, and 25-0014. These updates will make the following services a covered Medi-Cal benefit for all qualifying individuals with full-scope Medi-Cal, or individuals who meet the medically necessary criteria for services.

- **SPA 24-0003** proposes to add Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) as a setting where inpatient psychiatric services to beneficiaries under 22 years of age can be provided. DHCS submitted SPA 24-0003 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 29, 2024.
- **SPA 24-0031** proposes to make clarifying and technical edits to behavioral health treatment (BHT) services. DHCS submitted SPA 24-0031 to CMS on September 23, 2024.
- **SPA 24-0042** added expand the continuum of Community-Based Services and Evidence-Based Practices available through Medi-Cal Specialty Behavioral Health Delivery Systems. CMS approved SPA 24-0042 on December 19, 2024.
- **SPA 24-0052** added Enhanced Community Health Worker services, including Enhanced Community Health Representative services, as tailored preventive services to Medi-Cal members with significant behavioral health needs. CMS approved SPA 24-0052 on December 13, 2024.
- **SPA 25-0006** will provide eligible juveniles (under 21 years of age and former foster children ages up to age 26 years) who are post adjudication in a public institution certain screenings and diagnostic services in the 30-days prior to scheduled release, and targeted case management (TCM) in the 30 days leading up to their release and for 30 days after release from a public institution. DHCS will submit SPA to CMS by March 28, 2025.
- **SPA 25-0009** (previously known as SPA 24-0018) proposes to add psychological associates as a prospective payment system (PPS) billable practitioner type for



Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics, and Tribal FQHCs. DHCS will submit SPA 25-0009 to CMS by March 28, 2025.

- **SPA 25-0014** (previously known as SPA 24-0032) proposes to add certified wellness coach services as a preventive service. DHCS will submit SPA 25-0014 to CMS by March 28, 2025.

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 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 and published a tribal notice on February 21, 2025, and held a tribal webinar on February 26, 2025.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is January 1, 2025. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the CMS.

Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #25-0007 will be published on: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2025.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 #25-0007 using the mailing or email address listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Benefits Division
Medi-Cal Benefits Policy Branch
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA #25-0007 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #25-0007 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.