



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: MARCH 14, 2024

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 #24-0007 by DHCS. SPA #24-0007 seeks federal approval to update the ABP to add Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) as settings where inpatient psychiatric services can be provided to Medi-Cal members under 21 years of age.

This SPA also seeks to update the ABP to allow Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to bill for encounters by Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) services, and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs).

This SPA will bring the ABP in line with the changes made by SPA #23-0037, which authorized LPCCs to bill for LPCC encounters in FQHCs, RHCs, and Tribal FQHCs; SPA #24-0003, which would add PRTFs as a setting where inpatient psychiatric services to Medi-Cal members under 21 years of age can be provided and clarify that inpatient psychiatric services can be provided to Medi-Cal members under 21 years of age in psychiatric hospitals and hospitals with inpatient psychiatric programs; and SPA #24-0015, which would authorize LPCCs to bill for APCC encounters in FQHCs, RHCs, and Tribal FQHCs.

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 and published a tribal notice on February 23, 2024, a tribal notice addendum on March 1, 2024, and held a tribal webinar on February 27, 2024.

DHCS estimates the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures will be budget neutral.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is January 1, 2024. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).



Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #24-0007 will be published on:
<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 #24-0007 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 #24-0007 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #24-0007 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.