



DATE: November 9, 2023

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 23-23
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES/COUNTY JAILS
ALL COUNTY SHERIFFS AND UNDERSHERIFFS
ALL COUNTY YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL JUSTICE-INVOLVED REENTRY INITIATIVE-RELATED
STATE GUIDANCE RELEASED

The purpose of the All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide county welfare departments, state prisons, county correctional facilities, and county youth correctional facilities with information and directives to implement Medi-Cal pre-release and reentry services to individuals who are incarcerated. This requirement will help to ensure that, if determined eligible, all juvenile and adult inmates of County Correctional Facilities and County Youth Correctional Facilities have access to needed Medi-Cal covered services and care upon their reentry into the community.

This letter announces the release of the [“Policy and Operational Guide for Planning and Implementing CalAIM Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative”](#) for county welfare departments, state prisons, county correctional Facilities, county youth correctional facilities, and/or their designated entity or entities. The Policy and Operational Guide memorializes policy and operational requirements for implementing the Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative.

BACKGROUND

On January 26, 2023, California became the first state in the nation to receive federal approval to offer a targeted set of Medicaid services to Medi-Cal-eligible youth and adults in state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities for up to 90 days prior to release.¹ Through a federal Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will partner with state agencies, counties, providers, and community-based organizations to establish a coordinated community reentry process that will

¹11-W-00193/9, “California CalAIM Demonstration.” Available at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/downloads/ca-calaim-ca1.pdf>.

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assist people leaving incarceration with connecting to the physical and behavioral health services they need prior to release and reentering their communities.

The goal of the 1115 demonstration, referred to as the Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative, is to build a bridge to community-based care for justice-involved Medi-Cal members, offering them services up to 90 days prior to their release to stabilize their health conditions and establish a plan for their community-based care (collectively referred to as “pre-release services”).

Covered pre-release fee-for-services Medi-Cal services include the following:

- Reentry case management services.
- Physical and behavioral health clinical consultation services provided through telehealth or in person, as needed, to diagnose health conditions, provide treatment as appropriate, and support pre-release case managers’ development of a post-release treatment plan and discharge planning;
- Laboratory and radiology services;
- Medications and medication administration;
- Medication Services including medications clinically effective at treating substance use disorders outside of the FDA-approved indications, including coverage for medication-related counseling; and,
- Services provided by Community Health Workers and Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist with lived experience.

In addition to the above pre-release services, qualifying individuals will receive covered outpatient prescribed medications and over-the-counter drugs and durable medical equipment upon release, consistent with approved Medi-Cal state plan coverage authority and policy.

POLICY AND OPERATIONAL GUIDE

On October 20, 2023, DHCS released the [“Policy and Operational Guide for Planning and Implementing the CalAIM Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative.”](#) The Guide provides detailed policy requirements and operational expectations for implementation of the Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative. The audience of the Guide includes, but is not limited to, correctional facilities, county behavioral health agencies, county social service departments, Managed Care Plans, Mental Health Plans/Drug Medi-Cal and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems, and community-based providers.

The following sections are included in the Guide:

- Section 1: Legal Authority

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- Section 2: Providing Access to Transforming Health Initiative Funding
- Section 3: Approach to Planning
- Section 4: Enrolling in Medi-Cal Coverage
- Section 5: Pre-Release Service Readiness Assessments
- Section 6: Pre-Release Services and Eligibility Screening Processes
- Section 7: Compliance with Section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act
- Section 8: Providing Pre-Release Services Delivery Model
- Section 9: Provider Enrollment and Payment
- Section 10: Pre-Release Service Rate Setting
- Section 11: Reentry Planning
- Section 12: Monitoring and Evaluation
- Section 13: Managed Care Plan Requirements

As implementing partners begin to advance in the process of standing up the Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative, and as CMS continues to refine its own sub-regulatory guidance for states that receive demonstration approval, it is expected that the Justice-Involved Policy and Operational Guide will be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect new policy decisions and operational requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if we can provide further information, please contact the Justice Initiative Branch by email at CalAIMJusticeAdvisoryGroup@dhcs.ca.gov.

For CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative updates and additional information, please visit: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/Pages/Justice.aspx>.

Sincerely,

Yingjia Huang
Assistant Deputy Director
Health Care Benefits and Eligibility
Department of Health Care Services