

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROPOSED TRAILER BILL LEGISLATION

Adult Acupuncture Services Elimination FACT SHEET

Issue Title: Adult Acupuncture Services Elimination. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to eliminate Medi-Cal coverage of acupuncture services, effective no sooner than January 1, 2027.

Background: Outpatient acupuncture services (with or without electric stimulation of the needles) are limited to two services in any one calendar month per the Medi-Service reservation limitation although additional services can be provided based upon medical necessity through prior authorization.

Assembly Bill X3 5 (Evans, Chapter 20, Statutes of 2009) eliminated Medi-Cal coverage of several optional benefits, including audiology, optometry, podiatry, psychology, speech therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic services, optician and optical laboratory services, incontinence creams and washes, and dental services. Senate Bill 833 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 30, Statutes of 2016) restored acupuncture as a Medi-Cal benefit for all eligible members, effective July 1, 2016.

Justification for the Change: To address the state's budget shortfall, DHCS proposes this General Fund solution to eliminate Medi-Cal coverage of acupuncture services no sooner than January 1, 2027 (Welfare Institutions Code Sections 14131.10(b)(1)(G) and 14132).

BCP or Estimate Issue # and Title: TBD