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DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 12, 2022

James G. Scott, Director
Division of Program Operations
Medicaid & CHIP Operations Group
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
601 E. 12th Street, Room 355
Kansas City, MO 64106

CALIFORNIA REQUEST FOR ACTION: MONKEYPOX (MPX) VIRUS GUIDANCE

Dear Mr. Scott,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requests immediate action from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the recently declared federal public health emergency for the MPX virus. Prior to the federal declaration, given the rising cases in California, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on August 1, 2022. We ask that CMS issue guidance as quickly as possible to establish a Medicare rate for MPX vaccine administration. With that guidance, we can implement any unique coverage policies related to laboratory testing, vaccinations, and vaccine administration requirements.

Currently in California, based on publicly available [data](#) from the California Department of Public Health, as of August 11, 2022, 1,945 cases have been diagnosed, with the majority of cases being seen in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Of the reported cases, 98 percent are male and 88 percent are within the LGBTQ population. These numbers are rising daily.

In an effort to be responsive to our Medi-Cal beneficiaries and providers who support our enrolled populations, California will submit a Disaster State Plan Amendment to set the rate for MPX vaccine administration at 100 percent of the established Medicare rate.

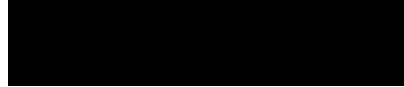
Your immediate attention to this request is greatly appreciated, and we are available to answer your questions. CMS has provided exceptional technical assistance, support, and guidance to our efforts to deal with the COVID-19 public health emergency, and we are again looking to you for similar support and guidance regarding the MPX virus and vaccine.

James G. Scott
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If you have any questions about this request, please contact René Mollow, Deputy Director, Health Care Benefits and Eligibility, via email at Rene.Mollow@dhcs.ca.gov.

As always, we appreciate your partnership and collaboration on key issues impacting our programs.

Sincerely,



Jacey Cooper
State Medicaid Director
Chief Deputy Director,
Health Care Programs

cc: Lindy Harrington
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