

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 27, 2021**

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) PROPOSES TO
SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA) TO ADD MEDICATION
THERAPY MANAGEMENT (MTM) TO THE ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT PLAN

This notice provides information of public interest that DHCS proposes to submit SPA 21-0063 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals to amend the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) by adding MTM as covered a Medi-Cal benefit for the new adult group. The effective date for SPA 21-0063 will be July 1, 2022.

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 August 26, 2021, and will hold a tribal webinar on August 31, 2021.

DHCS submitted SPA 21-0028 to CMS on June 30, 2021, to seek the necessary approval to add MTM as a covered benefit in the State Plan. DHCS is submitting SPA 21-0063, which is the corresponding ABP update to SPA 21-0028, which grants the authority to provide MTM reimbursement as a pharmacist service to any pharmacy provider who is willing to participate by signing a contract with DHCS. This contract would allow reimbursement for the costs and activities that are associated with dispensing specialty drugs to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. DHCS will establish and maintain a list of covered specialty drug categories for which MTM services reimbursement is available. DHCS will also publish protocols and utilization controls permitted for MTM services as well as establish reimbursement rates for the MTM services provided. For purposes of implementing MTM services, DHCS may enter into contracts with enrolled pharmacy providers as authorized in WIC, Section 14105.3.

DHCS projects the overall fiscal impact for the new adult group to result in an aggregate expenditure increase of approximately \$11,623,500 in total funds (\$4,068,225 state general funds/\$7,555,275 federal funds).

SPA 21-0063 is subject to approval by CMS.

Public Review and Comment

Interested parties may submit written comments, request copies of the statute, and/or request copies of the written comments to Jim Elliott, Chief, Medi-Cal Benefits and Legislation Team, Benefits Division; DHCS; MS 4601; P.O. Box 997417; Sacramento, CA 95899-7417. All written comments must be received by September 30, 2021.