

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-25-26  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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**State Demonstrations Group**

FEB 25 2020

Jaycee Cooper  
Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs  
California Department of Health Care Services  
1501 Capitol Ave, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MS 00000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Cooper:

This letter is to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the interim evaluation covering the 2016-2018 demonstration period of the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPD) component of California's section 1115 Medicaid demonstration, entitled "Medi-Cal 2020" (Project Number 11-W-00193/9, approved from December 30, 2015 through December 31, 2020). The interim evaluation will be posted to [Medicaid.gov](http://Medicaid.gov) shortly.

We note that this interim evaluation deviated substantially from the analysis proposed in the approved evaluation design. To fully assess the impact of the transition of the SPD population to managed care, the evaluation design proposed using data beginning two years before this transition (during the previous Medi-Cal "Bridge to Reform" demonstration period) through to the present. However, as outlined in the evaluation report, the data needed for this analysis were not available as originally proposed and alternative outcome measures could not be constructed in time for this interim evaluation. Despite the difficulties in conducting the quantitative analysis, the interim evaluation report provided detailed information on the implementation of the SPD program, including detailed enrollment figures and demographics of beneficiaries.

In approving this report, we acknowledge the efforts the state has made to conduct an extensive review of access, quality, and cost metrics that will allow for a thorough exploration of care within disease-specific populations of the SPD beneficiary group. We appreciate the detailed timeframe for conducting the full quantitative analysis as proposed in the evaluation design and look forward to receiving the results of this analysis in the summative evaluation report.

If you have any questions, please contact your CMS project officer, Mrs. Heather Ross at 410-786-3666, or by email at Heather.Ross@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

by  
Danielle Daly  
Director  
Division of Demonstration  
Monitoring and Evaluation

Original Signed by

Angela Garner  
Director  
Division of System Reform  
Demonstrations

cc: Cheryl Young, State Monitoring Lead, CMS Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group