



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

December 18, 2020

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

STATE PLAN AMENDMENT 20-0040: DISASTER RELIEF FOR COVID-19
VACCINATION COVERAGE AND REIMBURSEMENT

Dear Mr. Scott:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is submitting State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0040 for your review and approval. This SPA seeks to implement the policies and procedures as described, which are different than the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan, during the period of the public health emergency (PHE) related to the COVID-19 outbreak. The effective date of this SPA is November 2, 2020.

Using the SPA template provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for disaster relief during the COVID-19 PHE, DHCS seeks to add coverage for COVID-19 vaccine administration to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and establish Medicare reimbursement rates for the COVID-19 vaccine administration for all providers when furnished within their scope of practice in accordance with California state law, including Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), and Indian Health Service Memorandum of Agreement (IHS-MOA) providers.

DHCS proposes to reimburse COVID-19 vaccine administration at Medicare payment rates. FQHC, RHC, and IHS-MOA providers will receive the payment outside of their all-inclusive, per-visit reimbursement.

DHCS seeks a waiver of the public notification requirements due to the COVID-19 PHE and will publish them after submission, in accordance with the timelines as proposed in the SPA. To the extent there is a direct impact to Tribal Health Programs requiring a notice, DHCS requests a 10 business-day notice period that will occur after the SPA is

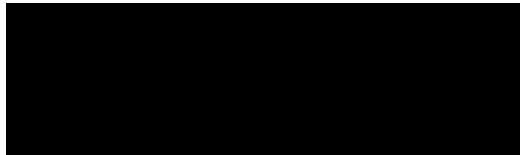
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submitted to CMS for approval. DHCS will post this SPA to its website as soon as possible.

DHCS is submitting CMS Form 179 and the disaster relief SPA template. The budget impact estimate is based on the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine benefit and reimbursement for administration to all covered Medi-Cal populations exclusively through the FFS delivery system, including carve out from all managed care contracts as indicated on the accompanying 1115 waiver request. DHCS estimated the federal fiscal impact for reimbursement of COVID-19 vaccine administration at the Medicare rate will be approximately \$43.9 million in federal fiscal year 2021 and \$159.6 in federal fiscal year 2022, for a combined total of \$203.5 million.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact René Mollow, MSN, RN, Deputy Director, Health Care Benefits & Eligibility, at (916) 440-7800, or by email at Rene.Mollow@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Jacey Cooper
Chief Deputy Director
Health Care Programs
State Medicaid Director

Enclosures

cc: Will Lightbourne
Director
Department of Health Care Services
Will.Lightbourne@dhcs.ca.gov

Erika Sperbeck
Chief Deputy Director
Policy & Program Support
Department of Health Care Services
Erika.Sperbeck@dhcs.ca.gov

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Anastasia Dodson
Associate Director for Policy
Department of Health Care Services
Anastasia.Dodson@dhcs.ca.gov

Lindy Harrington
Deputy Director
Health Care Financing
Department of Health Care Services
Lindy.Harrington@dhcs.ca.gov

René Mollow, MSN, RN
Deputy Director
Health Care Benefits & Eligibility
Department of Health Care Services
Rene.Mollow@dhcs.ca.gov

Kelly Pfeifer, MD
Deputy Director
Behavioral Health
Department of Health Care Services
Kelly.Pfeifer@dhcs.ca.gov

Kirk Davis
Deputy Director
Health Care Delivery Systems
Department of Health Care Services
Kirk.Davis@dhcs.ca.gov

Cheryl Young
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group
Division of Program Operations, West Branch
San Francisco Office
Cheryl.Young@cms.hhs.gov

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2. STATE

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:

TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (*Check One*)

NEW STATE PLAN

AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN

AMENDMENT

COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (*Separate transmittal for each amendment*)

6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT

a. FFY _____ \$ _____
b. FFY _____ \$ _____

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (*If Applicable*)

n/a

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (*Check One*)

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER, AS SPECIFIED

12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

16. RETURN TO

13. TYPED NAME

14. TITLE

15. DATE SUBMITTED
December 18, 2020

FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY

17. DATE RECEIVED

18. DATE APPROVED

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL

21. TYPED NAME

22. TITLE

23. REMARKS

Section 7 – General Provisions

7.4. Medicaid Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 National Emergency

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to ensure that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals enrolled in the respective programs and to ensure that health care providers that furnish such items and services in good faith, but are unable to comply with one or more of such requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may be reimbursed for such items and services and exempted from sanctions for such noncompliance, absent any determination of fraud or abuse. This authority took effect as of 6PM Eastern Standard Time on March 15, 2020, with a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020. The emergency period will terminate, and waivers will no longer be available, upon termination of the public health emergency, including any extensions.

The State Medicaid agency (agency) seeks to implement the policies and procedures described below, which are different than the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan, during the period of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), or for any shorter period described below:

Effective date is November 2, 2020.

NOTE: States may not elect a period longer than the Presidential or Secretarial emergency declaration (or any renewal thereof). States may not propose changes on this template that restrict or limit payment, services, or eligibility, or otherwise burden beneficiaries and providers.

Request for Waivers under Section 1135

X The agency seeks the following under section 1135(b)(1)(C) and/or section 1135(b)(5) of the Act:

- a. X SPA submission requirements – the agency requests modification of the requirement to submit the SPA by March 31, 2020, to obtain a SPA effective date during the first calendar quarter of 2020, pursuant to 42 CFR 430.20.
- b. X Public notice requirements – the agency requests waiver of public notice requirements that would otherwise be applicable to this SPA submission. These requirements may include those specified in 42 CFR 440.386 (Alternative Benefit Plans),

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Supersedes TN: NEW

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Effective Date: 11/2/2020

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42 CFR 447.57(c) (premiums and cost sharing), and 42 CFR 447.205 (public notice of changes in statewide methods and standards for setting payment rates).

- c. Tribal consultation requirements – the agency requests modification of tribal consultation timelines specified in California Medicaid state plan, as described below:

Please describe the modifications to the timeline.
To the extent there is a direct impact to Tribal Health Programs requiring a notice, California requests a 10 business-day notice period that will occur after the SPA is submitted to CMS for approval.

Section A – Eligibility

1. _____ The agency furnishes medical assistance to the following optional groups of individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) or 1902(a)(10)(c) of the Act. This may include the new optional group described at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XXIII) and 1902(ss) of the Act providing coverage for uninsured individuals.

Include name of the optional eligibility group and applicable income and resource standard.

2. _____ The agency furnishes medical assistance to the following populations of individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XX) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.218:

- a. _____ All individuals who are described in section 1905(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XX)

Income standard: _____

-or-

- b. _____ Individuals described in the following categorical populations in section 1905(a) of the Act:

Income standard: _____

3. _____ The agency applies less restrictive financial methodologies to individuals excepted from financial methodologies based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) as follows.

Less restrictive income methodologies:

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Less restrictive resource methodologies:

4. ____ The agency considers individuals who are evacuated from the state, who leave the state for medical reasons related to the disaster or public health emergency, or who are otherwise absent from the state due to the disaster or public health emergency and who intend to return to the state, to continue to be residents of the state under 42 CFR 435.403(j)(3).
5. ____ The agency provides Medicaid coverage to the following individuals living in the state, who are non-residents:

6. ____ The agency provides for an extension of the reasonable opportunity period for non-citizens declaring to be in a satisfactory immigration status, if the non-citizen is making a good faith effort to resolve any inconsistencies or obtain any necessary documentation, or the agency is unable to complete the verification process within the 90-day reasonable opportunity period due to the disaster or public health emergency.

Section B – Enrollment

1. ____ The agency elects to allow hospitals to make presumptive eligibility determinations for the following additional state plan populations, or for populations in an approved section 1115 demonstration, in accordance with section 1902(a)(47)(B) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.1110, provided that the agency has determined that the hospital is capable of making such determinations.

Please describe the applicable eligibility groups/populations and any changes to reasonable limitations, performance standards or other factors.

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2. _____ The agency designates itself as a qualified entity for purposes of making presumptive eligibility determinations described below in accordance with sections 1920, 1920A, 1920B, and 1920C of the Act and 42 CFR Part 435 Subpart L.

Please describe any limitations related to the populations included or the number of allowable PE periods.

3. _____ The agency designates the following entities as qualified entities for purposes of making presumptive eligibility determinations or adds additional populations as described below in accordance with sections 1920, 1920A, 1920B, and 1920C of the Act and 42 CFR Part 435 Subpart L. Indicate if any designated entities are permitted to make presumptive eligibility determinations only for specified populations.

Please describe the designated entities or additional populations and any limitations related to the specified populations or number of allowable PE periods.

4. _____ The agency adopts a total of _____ months (not to exceed 12 months) continuous eligibility for children under age enter age _____ (not to exceed age 19) regardless of changes in circumstances in accordance with section 1902(e)(12) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.926.
5. _____ The agency conducts redeterminations of eligibility for individuals excepted from MAGI-based financial methodologies under 42 CFR 435.603(j) once every _____ months (not to exceed 12 months) in accordance with 42 CFR 435.916(b).
6. _____ The agency uses the following simplified application(s) to support enrollment in affected areas or for affected individuals (a copy of the simplified application(s) has been submitted to CMS).
- a. _____ The agency uses a simplified paper application.
 - b. _____ The agency uses a simplified online application.
 - c. _____ The simplified paper or online application is made available for use in call-centers or other telephone applications in affected areas.

Section C – Premiums and Cost Sharing

1. _____ The agency suspends deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and other cost sharing charges as follows:

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Please describe whether the state suspends all cost sharing or suspends only specified deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other cost sharing charges for specified items and services or for specified eligibility groups consistent with 42 CFR 447.52(d) or for specified income levels consistent with 42 CFR 447.52(g).

2. The agency suspends enrollment fees, premiums and similar charges for:

a. All beneficiaries

b. The following eligibility groups or categorical populations:

Please list the applicable eligibility groups or populations.

3. The agency allows waiver of payment of the enrollment fee, premiums and similar charges for undue hardship.

Please specify the standard(s) and/or criteria that the state will use to determine undue hardship.

Section D – Benefits

Benefits:

1. The agency adds the following optional benefits in its state plan (include service descriptions, provider qualifications, and limitations on amount, duration or scope of the benefit):

2. The agency makes the following adjustments to benefits currently covered in the state plan:

3. The agency assures that newly added benefits or adjustments to benefits comply with all applicable statutory requirements, including the statewideness requirements found at

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1902(a)(1), comparability requirements found at 1902(a)(10)(B), and free choice of provider requirements found at 1902(a)(23).

4. Application to Alternative Benefit Plans (ABP). The state adheres to all ABP provisions in 42 CFR Part 440, Subpart C. This section only applies to states that have an approved ABP(s).
- a. The agency assures that these newly added and/or adjusted benefits will be made available to individuals receiving services under ABPs.
- b. Individuals receiving services under ABPs will not receive these newly added and/or adjusted benefits, or will only receive the following subset:

Please describe.

Telehealth:

5. The agency utilizes telehealth in the following manner, which may be different than outlined in the state's approved state plan:

Please describe.

Drug Benefit:

6. The agency makes the following adjustments to the day supply or quantity limit for covered outpatient drugs. The agency should only make this modification if its current state plan pages have limits on the amount of medication dispensed.

Please describe the change in days or quantities that are allowed for the emergency period and for which drugs.

7. Prior authorization for medications is expanded by automatic renewal without clinical review, or time/quantity extensions.

8. The agency makes the following payment adjustment to the professional dispensing fee when additional costs are incurred by the providers for delivery. States will need to supply documentation to justify the additional fees.

Please describe the manner in which professional dispensing fees are adjusted.

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9. The agency makes exceptions to their published Preferred Drug List if drug shortages occur. This would include options for covering a brand name drug product that is a multi-source drug if a generic drug option is not available.

Section E – Payments

Optional benefits described in Section D:

1. Newly added benefits described in Section D are paid using the following methodology:

- a. Published fee schedules –

Effective date (enter date of change): _____

Location (list published location): _____

- b. Other:

Describe methodology here.

Increases to state plan payment methodologies:

2. The agency increases payment rates for the following services:

Please list all that apply.

Vaccination administration fee increase from current \$4.46 (\$9.00 for VFC vaccines) as listed in SPA 15-007 to match Medicare administration rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration for each vaccine.

- a. Payment increases are targeted based on the following criteria:

Please describe criteria.

Increased administration fee targeted only to COVID-19 vaccines, all doses.

- b. Payments are increased through:

- i. A supplemental payment or add-on within applicable upper payment

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limits:

Please describe.

- ii. An increase to rates as described below.

Rates are increased:

Uniformly by the following percentage: _____

Through a modification to published fee schedules –

Effective date (enter date of change): November 2, 2020

Location (list published location): DHCS rate page website

Up to the Medicare payments for equivalent services.

By the following factors:

Please describe.

Payment for services delivered via telehealth:

3. For the duration of the emergency, the state authorizes payments for telehealth services that:

- a. Are not otherwise paid under the Medicaid state plan;
- b. Differ from payments for the same services when provided face to face;
- c. Differ from current state plan provisions governing reimbursement for telehealth;

Describe telehealth payment variation.

- d. Include payment for ancillary costs associated with the delivery of covered services via telehealth, (if applicable), as follows:
- i. Ancillary cost associated with the originating site for telehealth is

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incorporated into fee-for-service rates.

- ii. Ancillary cost associated with the originating site for telehealth is separately reimbursed as an administrative cost by the state when a Medicaid service is delivered.

Other:

- 4. X Other payment changes:

Please describe.

Reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine administration for Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and Tribal 638 clinic providers will be outside of the applicable Prospective Payment Systems (PPS) rate or alternative reimbursement methodology described in State Plan Attachment 4.19-B and will be reimbursed based on the fee schedule rates established under E2. Reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine administration will not impact the reconciliation of the PPS rate or alternative reimbursement methodology for these providers.

Section F – Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income

- 1. The state elects to modify the basic personal needs allowance for institutionalized individuals. The basic personal needs allowance is equal to one of the following amounts:
 - a. The individual’s total income
 - b. 300 percent of the SSI federal benefit rate
 - c. Other reasonable amount: _____
- 2. The state elects a new variance to the basic personal needs allowance. (Note: Election of this option is not dependent on a state electing the option described the option in F.1. above.)

The state protects amounts exceeding the basic personal needs allowance for individuals who have the following greater personal needs:

Please describe the group or groups of individuals with greater needs and the amount(s) protected for each group or groups.

Section G – Other Policies and Procedures Differing from Approved Medicaid State Plan /Additional Information

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PRA Disclosure Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1148 (Expires 03/31/2021). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1 to 2 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. Your response is required to receive a waiver under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. All responses are public and will be made available on the CMS web site. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. ***CMS Disclosure*** Please do not send applications, claims, payments, medical records or any documents containing sensitive information to the PRA Reports Clearance Office. Please note that any correspondence not pertaining to the information collection burden approved under the associated OMB control number listed on this form will not be reviewed, forwarded, or retained. If you have questions or concerns regarding where to submit your documents, please contact the Centers for Medicaid & CHIP Services at 410-786-3870.

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