

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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**State Demonstrations Group**

October 26, 2017

Ms. Mari Cantwell  
Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs  
California Department of Health Care Services  
1501 Capitol Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MS 0000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Cantwell:

This letter is to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the updates to Attachment AA – Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) Protocol under the section 1115(a) demonstration entitled “Medi-Cal 2020” (11-W-00193/9), as submitted by the state and as modified through our discussions. A copy of the approved DMC-ODS CPE Protocol is enclosed.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on the Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration. If you have any questions, please contact your project officer, Mrs. Heather Ross, at either 410-786-3666, or by email at [Heather.Ross@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Heather.Ross@cms.hhs.gov).

We appreciate your cooperation throughout the review process.

Sincerely,

/s/

Angela D. Garner  
Director  
Division of System Reform Demonstrations

Enclosures

cc: Henrietta Sam-Louie, ARA Region IX

**Attachment AA**  
**Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)**  
**County Certified Public Expenditures (CPE) Protocol**  
**(Updated October 26, 2017)**

**GENERAL**

Consistent with 42 CFR 433.51, a State or a unit of local government may use for its share in claiming federal financial participation (FFP) its public funds appropriated directly to the State or local Medicaid agency, transferred from other public agencies (including Indian tribes) to the State or local agency and under its administrative control, or certified by the contributing public agency as representing expenditures eligible for FFP. Public funds must not be federal funds unless specifically authorized by federal law to be used for such purpose.

The certified public expenditures of each Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Organized Delivery System (ODS) County are comprised of expenditures incurred for payments made to contracted providers and expenditures incurred by county-operated providers, for the furnishing of DMC ODS waiver services specified in the special terms and conditions of this 1115 demonstration waiver to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

DMC ODS county expenditures for contracted provider services are the payments made to the contracted providers. For the NTP/OTP modality of service, each DMC ODS county pays contracted providers at the lower of the uniform statewide daily rate (USDR) or the provider's usual and customary charge to the general public for the same or similar services.. For non-NTP/OTP modalities, each DMC ODS county pays contracted providers at county-specific negotiated rates, subject to contracted provider cost reconciliation as discussed below. The rates are proposed as part of the county fiscal plan that is submitted as addendum to the implementation plan and approved by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

These county-specific negotiated rates are based on several criteria as required in the fiscal guidance that has been provided in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (MHSUDS) INFORMATION NOTICE NO: 15-034 and MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO: 16-050. The county will use the projected actual cost for services based on the most current prior fiscal year cost report data, where these services were previously available, with adjustments for increased projected beneficiary counts and the resulting projected increase in units of service (projected utilization) that will result from participation in the pilot. In the cases where the services have not been previously available, the counties will project staff hours for providing the services and calculate a projected cost per unit. Additional adjustments can be applied for inflation, using an approved government inflation factor, in similar manner to the county interim rate development.

As the State reviews proposed county interim rates, the additional information that is considered in the review includes data that illustrates the contract providers' projected cost per unit for each DMC ODS service. The State is able to provide oversight to the contract provider rate development at this stage of the review. If the projected expenditure or the projected utilization appears to be excessive or unsubstantiated, the State will provide feedback in the review process and request additional justification and/or correction to the projections.

DMC ODS county expenditures for county-operated provider services are determined through county provider cost reports. Section 14124.24(g) (1) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) requires that legal entities (i.e., counties and contracted providers), except for those contracted providers providing only narcotic treatment, submit substance use disorder (SUD) cost reports to DHCS by November 1 for the previous state fiscal year, unless DHCS grants a formal extension. A county-operated narcotic treatment facility will be required to submit the complete SUD cost report.

The SUD cost report forms are structured to obtain each legal entity's methodology for allocating costs between the various services provided by the legal entity, separate by provider number. The provider must demonstrate in their cost report the allocation base they used to distribute their total program costs to specific SUD programs and modality types.

There is one Excel file that must be completed by the legal entity for each service site that has its own DMC number and DMC certification and maintains its separate accounting records. There are 23 worksheet tabs with data entry areas identified in yellow; however, most of the worksheet areas are automatically populated.

The SUD cost reporting forms were reviewed and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as part of the Medicaid state plan amendment 09-022 review. Direct costs and indirect costs are recognized consistent with federal cost principles, including 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, Medicare cost principles (42 CFR 413 and Medicare Provider Reimbursement Manual Parts 1 and 2), and Medicaid non-institutional reimbursement policy. Any substantive modification to the approved cost reporting form is subject to review and approval by CMS.

For the purposes of determining DMC ODS county certified public expenditures under the 1115 waiver, each county as contractor with the State receives and aggregates the provider cost reports into a cost report for all DMC ODS services provided under the contract to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The county is responsible for certification of public expenditures. DHCS is reconciling the county cost, based on the aggregate of costs incurred by the county for payments to all subcontracted providers and costs incurred by the county-operated providers. Cost reports completed by non-county (i.e., contracted) providers (which are required to file cost reports for non-NTP services under the Medicaid state plan), and cost reports completed by county-operated providers, are used to determine the DMC ODS expenditures under the 1115 waiver. These cost reports are used to determine if the reconciled amount was the lower of cost or customary charge

(and in the case of dosing and individual/group sessions provided by county-operated NTP providers, the lowest of USDR or cost or customary charge). These cost reports are subject to audit by State and Federal authorities.

## **DEFINITIONS**

1. “CMS” means the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
2. “Cost center” means a department or other unit within an organization to which costs may be charged for accounting purposes.
3. “DHCS” means the California Department of Health Care Services.
4. “Direct costs” means those that are directly incurred, consumed, expended and identifiable for the delivery of the specific covered service, objective or cost center. Examples of direct costs include unallocated (i.e., directly assigned or directly charged) wages/salaries of employees for the time devoted and identifiable specifically to delivery of the covered services or the final cost objective such as intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient drug free treatment. Other direct costs may include direct materials, equipment, supplies, professional services and transportation that are directly acquired, consumed, or expended for the delivery of the specific covered service or objective.
5. “DMC” means Drug Medi-Cal.
6. “DMC unreimbursable costs” means costs that are not reimbursable or allowable in determining the provider’s allowable costs in accordance to the California’s Medicaid State Plan, the special terms and conditions of this 1115 demonstration waiver, federal and state laws and regulations, including 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E, 42 CFR 413, Medicare Provider Reimbursement Manuals, CMS non-institutional reimbursement policy and California Code of Regulations Titles 9 and 22 (to the extent that they do not conflict with federal cost principles).
7. “Indirect costs” means those costs: a) incurred for a common or joint objective benefiting more than one cost center or objective, and b) are not readily identifiable and assignable to the cost center or objectives specifically benefited, without effort disproportionate to the particular cost center or objective.
8. “Indirect cost rate” means a tool for determining the proportion of indirect costs each program should bear. It is the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of the indirect costs to a direct cost base. A provider’s indirect cost rate must be determined and approved by a cognizant agency (federal or state agency).
9. “IOT” means intensive outpatient treatment.

10. “Legal Entity” means each county alcohol and drug department or agency and each of the corporations, sole proprietors, partnerships, agencies, or individual practitioners providing alcohol and drug treatment services under contract with the county alcohol and drug department or agency or with DHCS.
11. “NTP” or “OTP” means narcotic treatment program treatment.
12. “ODF” means outpatient drug free treatment.
13. “Percent of Direct Costs” means a tool for determining the proportion of indirect costs each program should bear. It is the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of each modality or cost center’s direct costs to the total direct costs. Percent of Direct Costs is a variation of the Indirect Cost Rate which allows the allocation of indirect costs by line item rather than in aggregate.
14. “PH” means partial hospitalization.
15. “SUD” means substance use disorder.

## **SUMMARY OF STATE-DEVELOPED COST REPORT**

### **Modifications to the Current CMS Approved SUD Cost Report Forms**

In order to collect accurate cost data for the additional services offered in the DMC ODS, it will be necessary to insert sections into each of the four modality-specific worksheets to capture data for all of the added DMC ODS services that will be offered in each level of care. These include adding case management, physician consultation, withdrawal management, recovery services, and additional medication-assisted treatment. DHCS will also need to add new tabs for Partial Hospitalization (PH) services. These tabs will also include the additional DMC ODS services as described above. These changes will not change how the forms calculate the amounts; they will just add the additional services into the current structure.

The other necessary modification is to remove the current statewide rates that are currently included on the forms. The Cost Allocation tab of the forms will calculate the cost per unit based on total allowable cost/total allowable units. This cost per unit will be used to reconcile the interim payments. The state will not use the current DMC Maximum Allowed for the ODS cost settlement. However, all other limits including the USDR for NTP services and customary charges will continue to apply as they do under the state plan for DMC services.

### **Inpatient hospital-based residential and withdrawal management services include ASAM levels 3.7 and 4.**

These services are reimbursable in the DMC ODS when they are delivered by a licensed and certified chemical dependency rehabilitation hospital (CDRH) or a licensed and certified freestanding acute psychiatric hospital (FAPH). CMS requires the use of the form CMS 2552-10

for all hospital cost reporting. Contracted CDHRs and FAPHs should submit a copy of the CMS 2552-10 to the county for the purpose of DMC ODS cost reporting. The information from the CMS 2552-10 submitted to the county will be used to identify the relevant cost data that the county will enter into the cost report system.

**Cost Report Forms Description:**

**Provider Information and Certification Worksheet (Tab 1)**

This worksheet collects provider details, including entity name, address, other contact information, DMC number and National Provider Identifier (NPI). This worksheet is also where the provider representative signs and certifies that the cost report is accurate and complies with all Federal and State requirements.

**Overall Cost Summary Worksheet (Tab 2)**

This worksheet displays a summary of the totals for all the cost centers being reported. No data entry is necessary in this worksheet; information will automatically populate from the Overall Detailed Costs worksheet.

**Overall Detailed Costs Worksheet (Tab 3)**

This worksheet requires the provider to enter all necessary data related to all direct and indirect costs being reported. This worksheet must reflect all costs incurred by the provider related to their SUD services and it must demonstrate the allocation methodologies used by the provider (in accordance with applicable cost reimbursement standards) to distribute their costs across various cost centers.

**Detailed Costs Worksheet (Tab 4 – ODF; Tab 8 – PH; Tab 12 – IOT; Tab 16 – Residential; Tab 20 – NTP)**

This worksheet displays the results of all calculations for the cost reported for the specific modality. No data entry is necessary in this worksheet; information will automatically populate from other worksheets.

**Detailed Adjustments For DMC Unreimbursable & Direct Costs Worksheet (Tab 5 – ODF; Tab 9 – PH; Tab 13 – IOT; Tab 17 – Residential; Tab 21 – NTP)**

This worksheet allows the provider to enter the breakout of costs from the program's general ledger for each of the cost categories between the different services. This information automatically populates data in the Detailed Costs worksheet and the Cost Allocation worksheet.

**Cost Allocation Worksheet (Tab 6 – ODF; Tab 10 – PH; Tab 14 – IOT; Tab 18 – Residential; Tab 22 – NTP)**

This worksheet further identifies the breakout of costs between the different services and between private pay, DMC and non-DMC. The provider will enter the units of service and the rates that have been charged for the services. The worksheet calculates the maximum reimbursement for DMC services. All other areas are automatically populated based on data entry in other worksheet tabs.

**Reimbursed Units Worksheet (Tab 7 – ODF; Tab 11 – PH; Tab 15 – IOT; Tab 19 – Residential; Tab 23 – NTP)**

This worksheet requires the provider to enter the approved units of DMC service based on a report generated by DHCS. There are areas on this sheet that are automatically populated from other worksheets. The worksheet produces specific reimbursement amounts by funding source and aid code category. The county will use the amounts from this worksheet for data entry into the cost report system application.

**INTERIM RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY**

Each county's interim CPE claim submitted to the state will be based on the services provided and the approved county interim rates for the covered services. Annual interim rates for each covered service will be developed by the county and approved by the State. The approved interim rates will be specified in the State/County contract. These interim rates must conform to SSA §1903(w)(6) and §42 CFR 433.51, and all certified public expenditures will be subject to annual reconciliation and cost settlement consistent with Federal and State requirements.

Proposed rates must be developed for each required and (if indicated) optional service modality. The proposed rates must be developed consistent with the terms and conditions of the Waiver, written guidance provided by DHCS, and federal certified public expenditure (CPE) requirements related to interim payments; and are subject to annual reconciliation and settlement.

The proposed county interim rates should be based on the most recently calculated or estimated total county cost with adjustments for projected increases in utilization and the application of the Home Health Agency Market Basket inflation factor. The proposed interim rate should be calculated for each service including both county directly delivered (if appropriate), and subcontracted fee for service provider costs. For county-operated services the county will be reimbursed based on actual allowable costs. County payments to contracted fee for service providers are considered to be actual expenditures according to the terms and conditions of the waiver. If the county elects to contract for covered services through a contracted managed care plan, the county will provide reimbursement for the services delivered by the managed care organization subject to the terms and conditions of the waiver.

**Uniform Statewide Daily Reimbursement Rate Methodology for DMC ODS Narcotic Treatment Programs**

The uniform statewide daily reimbursement (USDR) rate for the daily dosing service is based on the average daily cost of providing dosing and ingredients, core and laboratory work services as described in State Plan Amendment (SPA) 09-022, Section D. The daily cost is determined based on the annual cost per patient and a 365- day year, using the most recent and accurate data available, and in consultation with narcotic treatment providers, and county alcohol and drug program administrators. The uniform statewide daily reimbursement rates for NTP Individual and Group Counseling are based on the non-NTP Outpatient Drug Free Individual and Group Counseling SMA rates as described under SPA 09-022, Section E.1.a.

For interim rate purposes, county-operated NTP/OTP providers are reimbursed at the USDR for dosing, individual/group sessions. However, additional ODS services available to county-operated NTPs (case management, physician consultation, recovery services) will be reimbursed at county interim rates discussed above.

### **INTERIM MEDICAID PAYMENTS**

The State makes interim payments of FFP to the DMC ODS counties based upon submitted expenditures. The DMC ODS counties will submit monthly CPE claims to the state for interim payments for services provided during the fiscal period. When submitting a claim for FFP for services provided by a county-operated or contracted provider, the DMC ODS county is required to certify that it has made expenditures on which the claim for FFP is based, that the expenditures are no greater than the actual county cost of providing services, and that the expenditures meet all federal and State requirements for claiming FFP.

Interim payments for FFP will be available through claim adjudication for those expenditures the contracting county has officially certified. This certification must satisfy all federal Medicaid and State Medi-Cal CPE, full funds expenditure (federal and non-federal share expenditure), and claims integrity requirements. Claims will be reimbursed at the annual interim rates for each covered service developed by the county participating in the demonstration and approved by the State. All interim rates must conform to 42 CFR 433.51, and all certified public expenditures continue to be subject to annual reconciliation and cost settlement consistent with Federal and State requirements.

### **INTERIM RECONCILIATION OF INTERIM MEDICAID PAYMENTS**

Consistent with the cost report submission, acceptance, reconciliation, and settlement process outlined in the state plan for DMC services, DHCS will complete the interim settlement of the DMC ODS county cost report no later than eighteen months after the close of the State fiscal year. Each DMC ODS county's expenditures that are used to claim interim FFP payments are reconciled to its State-developed cost report package for the State fiscal year in which services were provided. Each DMC ODS county cost report package is an aggregate of expenditures incurred for payments made to contracted providers and expenditures incurred by county-operated providers as determined through individual legal entity cost reports. Reimbursement



under the DMC ODS program is available only for allowable costs incurred for providing DMC ODS services during the fiscal year to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries as specified in the special terms and conditions of this 1115 waiver demonstration. If, at the end of the interim reconciliation process, it is determined that a county received an overpayment, the overpayment is properly credited to the federal government in accordance with 42 CFR 433.316. If, at the end of the interim reconciliation process, it is determined that a county received an underpayment, an additional payment is made to the county. The State uses the following process to complete its interim reconciliation of interim Medicaid payments of FFP.

Participating counties and their contracted non-NTP providers must maintain fiscal and statistical records for the period covered by the cost report that are accurate and sufficiently detailed to substantiate the cost report data. The records must be maintained for a period of ten years from the date of service for all claims for reimbursement.

All records of funds expended and costs reported are subject to review and audit by DHCS and/or the federal government pursuant to the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14124.24(g)(2) and 14170.

Participating counties and their contracted non-NTP providers must compute allowable costs and determine their allocation methodology in accordance with applicable cost reimbursement principles in 42 CFR Part 413, CMS-Pub 15-1 and 15-2, 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E, CMS non-institutional reimbursement policy, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 9 and Title 22 (to the extent that they do not conflict with federal cost principles). Direct and indirect costs are determined and allocated using a methodology consistent with that approved for DMC state plan services, except that the methodology is applied to waiver services. The cost allocation plan must identify, accumulate, and distribute allowable direct and indirect costs and identify the allocation methods used for distribution of indirect costs. Although there are various methodologies available for determining actual direct costs and for allocating actual indirect costs, for consistency, efficiency and compliance with federal laws and regulations, the cost report identifies direct cost categories for each modality and establishes a standard methodology of percentage of total direct cost to allocate indirect costs. This methodology is a variation of the indirect cost rate methodology in 2 CFR Part 225 (OMB Circular A-87) and 2 CFR Part 230 (OMB Circular A-122). DHCS recognizes that there are other indirect cost allocation bases (such as percentage of direct salaries and wages) that result in an equitable distribution of indirect administrative overhead. However, if a provider wishes to use an indirect cost allocation basis other than the one prescribed in the cost report, the provider must obtain their respective county's prior approval. Before granting approval to the provider, the county must seek DHCS's approval and DHCS will make a final determination of the propriety of the methodology used. All allocation plans will still be subject to a review during a DHCS financial audit.

## **FINAL RECONCILIATION OF INTERIM MEDICAID PAYMENTS**

Consistent with the cost report submission, acceptance, reconciliation, and settlement process outlined in the state plan for DMC services, the State will audit and complete the final reconciliation and settlement of the cost report within three years from the date of the interim settlement. The audit performed by the State determines whether the income, expenses, and statistical data reported on the cost report are reasonable, allowable, and in accordance with State and federal rules, regulations, and Medicare principles of reimbursement issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS. The audit also determines that the county's cost report accurately represents the actual cost of operating the DMC program in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87, Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards (GAGAS) as published by the Comptroller General of the United States and other State and federal regulatory authorities. The State audit staff compares the FFP due to the county in the audited cost report with all interim payments, including the interim settlement and supplemental payments to eligible entities. The purpose of this comparison or review is for the State to determine if an overpayment or underpayment exists, and ensure that any overpayment of FFP is promptly returned to the federal government per 42 CFR 433.316 and 433.320. If the State determines that the county received an underpayment, the State makes an additional payment to the county.