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**DATE:**

**TO: All Medi-Cal Providers**

**FROM: Betty Lai, Chief  
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**SUBJECT: Provider Bulletin: Medi-Cal County Inmate Programs**

This bulletin is to notify providers regarding the claiming and reimbursement structure for the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program (MCIP), which is a fee-for-service (FFS) only program that provides MCIP Medi-Cal services (MCIP services) to MCIP-eligible inmates.<sup>1</sup> MCIP consists of the following three programs:

- Adult County Inmate Program (ACIP), authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code section 14053.7, provides Medi-Cal coverage to eligible adult county inmates.
- Juvenile County Ward Program (JCWP), authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code section 14053.8, provides Medi-Cal coverage to eligible juvenile inmates (i.e. county wards).
- County Compassionate Release Program (CCRP) and County Medical Probation Program (CMPP), authorized by Government Code sections 26605.6, 26605.7, and 26605.8, allow county sheriffs to grant medical release or medical probation in lieu of jail time, if certain conditions are met.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code sections 14053.7(k) and 14053.8(l), a Medi-Cal provider shall submit its claims to DHCS directly for MCIP services provided to MCIP-eligible inmates, effective when the county responsible for the inmate receiving MCIP services has signed the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement and through the effective dates of the Agreement, or until and unless MCIP is discontinued.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "MCIP-eligible inmate" refers to an individual who is eligible to receive MCIP services under ACIP, JCWP, CCRP, or CMPP.

Medi-Cal providers may receive reimbursement at the applicable Medi-Cal FFS rate/methodology using the same claiming process for non-inmate FFS Medi-Cal beneficiaries. In order to be covered as a MCIP service, a service must be a Medi-Cal service covered under ACIP, JCWP, CRPP, or CMPP, provided to a MCIP-eligible inmate while off the grounds of the county correctional facility and result in an expected stay of more than 24 hours.<sup>2</sup>

ACIP provides Medi-Cal allowable inpatient hospital services, including inpatient psychiatric services, and physician services provided during the inpatient hospital service stay of adult inmates in county correctional facilities who are determined eligible for Medi-Cal pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 14053.7.

JCWP provides Medi-Cal allowable inpatient hospital services, including inpatient psychiatric services and physician services, of juvenile inmates in county correctional facilities who are determined eligible for Medi-Cal services pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 14053.8.

CCRP and CMPP provide full-scope Medi-Cal coverage.

Only MCIP inmate aid codes shall be used for provider claiming.

Providers shall comply with the TAR/utilization review requirements for their particular provider type and the FFS MCIP service type.

MCIP service claims will be submitted to DHCS for payment, consistent with standard FFS Medi-Cal claiming. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples:

- If a Medi-Cal provider receives FFS reimbursement for non-inmate Medi-Cal inpatient hospital services under the APR-DRG methodology<sup>3</sup> or the certified public expenditure (CPE) methodology,<sup>4</sup> then such FFS MCIP services may be reimbursed by DHCS under the Medi-Cal provider's existing FFS claiming methodology for MCIP services.
  - If the Medi-Cal provider is a designated public hospital (DPH) receiving inpatient hospital service reimbursement under the CPE methodology, but not all the MCIP services are reimbursable under the CPE methodology, then the provider's applicable FFS Medi-Cal reimbursement methodology will apply for those MCIP services.

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<sup>2</sup> The expected stay of 24 hours must be determined pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 51108 and the billing instructions in the Provider Manual must be followed.

<sup>3</sup> The APR-DRG methodology authorized in Welfare and Institutions Code section 14105.28.

<sup>4</sup> The certified public expenditure methodology established in the State Plan (Attachment 4.19-A) and in the governing State law (Welfare and Institutions Code section 14166.4) and authorized under successor demonstration project as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 14166.1(m), and the subsequent demonstration project defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 17612.2(x).

- If a Medi-Cal provider receives FFS reimbursement for rendering Medi-Cal physician services associated with non-inmate Medi-Cal inpatient hospital services, then such physician services to MCIP patients will also be reimbursed by DHCS at the corresponding FFS Medi-Cal rate/methodology if the physician services are provided during the inpatient hospital service stay.
- If a Medi-Cal provider receives FFS reimbursement for Medi-Cal services that are also provided in CCRP or CMPP, then the provider may receive the reimbursement at the corresponding FFS Medi-Cal rate/methodology.

The County may pay a Medi-Cal provider to the extent required by or otherwise permitted by state and federal law to arrange for services for the MCIP individuals. Such additional amounts shall be paid entirely with County funds, and shall not be matched with federal financial participation.

If you need additional information, or have any questions, please submit questions via email at [DHCSIMCU@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DHCSIMCU@dhcs.ca.gov).

For eligibility related questions regarding ACIP, JCWP, CCRP, or CMPP, please contact the Medi-Cal Eligibility Division at [MCIEP@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MCIEP@dhcs.ca.gov).

For all Mental Health Medi-Cal psychiatric services related questions regarding ACIP, JCWP, CCRP, or CMPP, please contact the County Claims Customer Service Section at [MedCCC@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MedCCC@dhcs.ca.gov).