

**California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Monthly Report
March 2017**

Ryan White (RW) Part B: AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

After careful and thoughtful consideration of all options, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has decided to terminate its contract with A.J. Boggs & Company. This decision was made in order to best serve the state's 29,000 ADAP clients. Effective March 6, 2017, eligibility and enrollment services will be handled by CDPH.

Enrollment Workers were informed of this change on the March 1, 2017, Statewide ADAP Enrollment Worker Call and in the Enrollment Worker Update, Notice #17 that was disseminated to Enrollment Workers after the call on March 1, 2017.

ADAP Eligibility and Enrollment Services

CDPH worked with a consulting firm to create a new ADAP enrollment system. CDPH has also established an ADAP call center and data processing unit in order to conduct eligibility and enrollment services starting March 6, 2017.

Effective Monday, March 6, Enrollment Workers should:

- Fax ADAP applications directly to the ADAP data processing unit at (844) 421-8008, or use our eFax email at CDPHMEDASSISTFAX@cdph.ca.gov.
- Fax Office of AIDS-Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) applications to (916) 440-5490.
- Fax Medicare Part D applications to (916) 440-5494.
- Call the ADAP call center at (844) 421-7050 for questions regarding enrollment and eligibility. The call center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Enrollment Workers should continue to:

- Contact the appropriate OA-HIPP Analyst regarding OA-HIPP and Medicare Part D premium payment questions.

CDPH will begin providing Enrollment Workers training and access to the new enrollment system during the week of March 13, 2017. CDPH will provide more guidance and information as it becomes available.

Self-Verification Forms & Postcards

A.J Boggs has mailed March and April Self Verification Forms (SVFs) and postcards. A.J. Boggs will re-route completed and returned SVFs to CDPH.

Effective March 6, 2017, Medical Out-of-Pocket Claim forms and supporting documentation from OA-HIPP clients must be submitted **directly to Pool Administrators, Inc.** via fax, secure email or mail:

E-Fax Number: (860) 560-8225

Email: CDPH_MBM_Fax@pooladmin.com

Mail: PAI-CDPH 628 Hebron Ave., Suite 100, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Client Communication

Clients will receive a letter, both in English and Spanish, from Magellan Rx Management informing them of this transition. At this time, there is no required action for clients. Clients will also receive a new Magellan Rx Management card with the CDPH phone number for eligibility questions. Enrollment Workers have been provided a sample client letter for their reference.

Additional Information

There is no change to the Magellan Rx Management contract. Magellan will notify all in-network pharmacies via fax of the change in contractors. Pharmacies should not be impacted by this transition. Magellan will also continue to provide real-time, 24/7 access to medications, including a 30-day supply for existing ADAP clients who experience access issues at the pharmacy.

The Pool Administrators, Inc. contract has been modified to include a full-time employee to oversee and manage Medical Out-of-Pocket Claim forms and supporting documentation for eligible OA-HIPP clients.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program

The new fiscal year for the HIV Care Program begins April 1, 2017. Contractor budgets for the new fiscal year were due to Care Operations Advisors on Friday, February 24, 2017.

AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

- The MCWP and Department of Health Care Services have responded to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) questions regarding the 2017 – 2021 AIDS Waiver Renewal Application and submitted them for review and approval. CMS has placed the Application in *Request for Additional Information (RAI)* status pending review of the submitted questions. To accommodate the RAI

process, an extension of the 2012 – 2016 Waiver has been approved by CMS through April 1, 2017. Until the new Application is approved, the policies and procedures of the 2012 – 2016 Waiver will remain in effect.

- Staff from the Office of AIDS (OA), Surveillance, Research and Evaluation Branch presented a training module during the February Project Director's Teleconference for the new MCWP *AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System* (ARIES) layout that went into effect January 1, 2017. Updates to the MCWP ARIES layout were made to align with current service hierarchy categories utilized by MCWP local agencies and to improve reporting functionality. The WebEx training module is available at: <https://cdph.webex.com/cdph/ldr.php?RCID=48ab77ceaf0b12213a27a38d113faed2>
- All Project Directors' Letter (APDL) 17-01 was sent out to Project Directors on February 22, 2017, announcing rate increases for MCWP Homemaker and Attendant Care Services effective January 1, 2017. This APDL is supplemental to *Medi-Cal Bulletin 509* released on February 16, 2017, announcing the increases. Pursuant to SB 3 (Chapter 4, Statutes of 2016), statewide minimum wage rates were increased to \$10.50 per hour effective January 1, 2017. Accordingly, reimbursement rates for Homemaker and Attendant Care Services under MCWP were increased effective January 1, 2017, to accommodate the increased statewide minimum wage rate.
 - This and other APDLs can be accessed on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/CareProjectDirectorsLetters.aspx.
 - The *Medi-Cal Bulletin 509* is available on the Medi-Cal website at <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/bulletins/artfull/aid201702.asp>.

HIV Prevention

The California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS is pleased to announce that the Kings County Needle Exchange (KCNE) application to provide syringe exchange services has been approved. KCNE will have fixed site locations in the Hanford, Lemoore, Corcoran, and Avenal Health Clinics. The Hanford location exchange program will take place once a week for three hours, and exchange in the Lemoore, Corcoran and Avenal health department clinics will take place once a month.

Authorization is effective March 7, 2017, through March 7, 2019. KCNE may apply for renewal before the end of the two-year period. As an authorized needle exchange program, KCNEP is now also eligible to receive supplies from the California Syringe Exchange Supply Clearinghouse.

California Planning Group (CPG)

- Final decisions on the new CPG membership were made on March 3, 2017, after which all applicants were notified. Questions about CPG can be sent to cpg@cdph.ca.gov.
- An in-person CPG meeting is scheduled for April 4-6, 2017, in Sacramento. This will be the first meeting of the new CPG membership. The meeting is open to the public and there will be an opportunity for public comment. Information about the meeting and the public comment opportunity is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OACPG.aspx.

For questions regarding this report, please contact: michael.foster@cdph.ca.gov.