

## **Medi-Cal Certification Bulletin**

October 25, 2019 NO. 19-01

### **Determining the Medi-Cal Activation Date**

This Medi-Cal Certification Bulletin provides information on determining the Activation Date for a Short-Doyle Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Service Provider site.

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The Medi-Cal **Activation Date** is the first date Medi-Cal claims can be submitted to The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for reimbursement of services rendered to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries. DHCS determines this date by the following:

1. **Date the Provider requested Certification:**

- For Directly Operated Providers, this is the date the completed application package (DHCS application, Fire Clearance, Head of Service license, Program Description) is accepted by DHCS.
- For Contract Providers, this is the date the Legal Entity entered into a signed agreement with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH).

2. **Date the site was Operational:**

- This is the date the Provider can demonstrate they have the minimum staffing pattern(s) required for the Modes of Service they are requesting to have Certified.

3. **Date of Fire Clearance:** Date the Fire Clearance was **granted** (*please see Bulletin 19-02, Fire Clearance Requirement, for additional information*)

- Onsite review must be conducted within one year from date of the granted Fire Clearance.
- Each Fire Clearance must be determined by the Certification Liaison to be a valid Fire Clearance.

The Medi-Cal Activation Date is determined by the **latest of the above three dates**.

In addition, the onsite review **must be completed within 6 months** of the proposed Activation Date, along with completed submission of pertinent documentation by LACDMH to DHCS for final approval of the Medi-Cal Activation Date and Certification.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Although DHCS allows a Provider to submit claims **up to** six months retroactively for services rendered to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries, all requirements and timelines related to the Medi-Cal Activation Date **must be met** by the Provider to be eligible. Failure to meet the requirements and timelines will affect a Provider's eligibility for the retroactive claiming allowance. **Please note that DHCS will review all dates and timelines outlined in this bulletin to make their final approval of the Medi-Cal Activation Date.**

For additional questions or clarification in reference to this bulletin, please contact your Service Area Certification Liaison. You can also contact the Medi-Cal Certification Unit at (213) 251-6862 or [qualityassurance@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:qualityassurance@dmh.lacounty.gov).