

**California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS
Monthly Report
December 2017**

Office of AIDS Division/Cross Branch Issues

- CDPH has signed on to the Undetectable Equals Untransmittable (U=U) campaign. Considerable scientific evidence verifies that anyone who is HIV positive, taking daily antiretroviral therapy, and has achieved an undetectable viral load in their blood for at least 6 months effectively poses no risk of transmitting the virus to their sexual partners. This “treatment as prevention” approach is a key component of California’s Getting to Zero Plan, informs all of CDPH, Office of AIDS (OA) programmatic work, and reduces stigma against people living with HIV.
- CDPH, OA is partnering with the CDPH Immunization Branch to help disseminate a Provider Alert to remind providers to immunize both HIV negative and HIV positive men who have sex with men (MSM) against hepatitis A infection, and offer HIV testing to MSM not known to be positive. The Provider Alert is located on the CDPH website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/Advisory-MSMHAV.pdf, which also contains links to patient resources regarding viral hepatitis and vaccinations for MSM. Please help OA disseminate these resources throughout the state.

Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero: California’s Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention and Care Plan

- On November 8, 2017, at the “HIV Testing in Jails: Tools for Planning, Implementation, and Sustaining” Conference, Diem Tran and Kevin Sitter presented on how the Plan addresses people living with HIV who are incarcerated and the critical need for effective navigation to care and services when a HIV-positive inmate is released. In addition, effective linkage to care models were included in the presentation.

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

- **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)**
CDPH, OA has started developing trainings for enrollment workers to assist in navigating the PrEP portion of the ADAP Enrollment System (AES); which will include Snip-It videos, an ELearning module, and job aids. OA is also developing

a separate training that focuses on policy and enrolling clients in the PrEP Assistance Program during phase I implementation for uninsured clients. Job aids will also be provided to assist uninsured and insured clients and enrollment workers in filling out the online application for the Gilead Patient Assistance Program. CDPH, OA expects to release a training schedule a month before implementation and will conduct live webinar sessions.

- **Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program**

CDPH, OA is holding-regular status meetings with enrollment sites selected to participate in the Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program to answer questions and provide program updates such as contracting and training updates.

- **ADAP Enrollment System (AES)**

The AES is being developed in stages, with releases of features and improvements to support eligibility management, system navigation, data exchange, reporting, quality assurance, and data security. ADAP continues to coordinate each release with training and outreach to ensure enrollment workers and other users are aware of changes and can correctly use any new features.

On November 7, CDPH, OA sent enrollment workers an email regarding the new functionality available in the AES:

- Ability to create and submit work items via the Workload Management Module

Attached to the email was the “Workload Management for EWs; Release 9, Nov 8” job aid.

On November 21, CDPH, OA sent enrollment workers an email regarding the new functionalities available in the AES effective November 22:

- Viral load validation on the Clinical tab for when a value <200 is entered into the Viral Load field. For values <200, enrollment workers will be prompted to select the “Undetectable Viral Load” box.
- A status of “Pending” will now be shown on the Client Profile screen for work items that are under review by ADAP staff.
- Ability to view medication payment information (i.e., date of service, day supply, refills remaining) on the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) page.

Attached to the email was the “Workload Management for EWs; Release 10, Nov 22” job aid, “Navigating the AES for ADAP, EWs; Release 10, Nov 22” job aid, and the “IBM-MBM-PBM Display” job aid.

- **Covered California Open Enrollment, Off-Exchange Plan Open Enrollment and Medicare Part D Open Enrollment**

On October 2, letters were sent to Medicare Part Premium Payment Program clients regarding the Medicare Part D open enrollment period, which is October 15, 2017, to December 7, 2017.

The Covered California open enrollment period is November 1, 2017, to January 31, 2018. ADAP staff and enrollment workers were provided with Management Memoranda regarding the Covered California open enrollment period, off-exchange plan open enrollment periods, and Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) program requirements. The Management Memoranda contained information regarding changes for Covered California consumers and resources to help assist clients in choosing a health insurance plan. CDPH, OA is mailing letters in English and Spanish regarding the Covered California open enrollment period to existing clients that are enrolled in Covered California and ADAP clients that do not have health coverage.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program

OA awarded an additional \$280,932 in RW Part B Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2017 to the following six MAI contractors: Community Medical Center (Fresno), Riverside County, Sacramento County, San Bernardino County, San Mateo County, and Ventura County. These funds are for MAI outreach and treatment education services and only for the RW Part B MAI FY 2017. The funds were made available to all 18 MAI contractors. The six contractors that received the funds were those that submitted requests for additional funds for allowable activities.

AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

On November 16, 2017, the Medi-Cal Subscription Service released Bulletin 518, which announced the implementation of the increased reimbursement rates for eleven of sixteen MCWP service categories. The increased rates were activated in the California Medicaid Management Information System on November 27, 2017, and are retroactive to July 1, 2017.

- Medi-Cal Subscription Service Bulletin 518 is available on the Medi-Cal website at: <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/bulletins/artfull/aid201711.asp>
- To subscribe to Medi-Cal Subscription Service Bulletins, visit the Medi-Cal website at <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/mcss/mcss.asp>

HIV Prevention

On December 1, 2017, the Orange County Needle Exchange Program (OCNEP) submitted a request for renewal of certification to CDPH. OCNEP was the first syringe exchange program (SEP) authorized under Health & Safety Code 121349, which allows CDPH to authorize SEPs. After consultation with the local health officer and law enforcement leadership, CDPH will issue a final response to the request for renewal by January 12, 2018.

Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation

In November 2017, the Prevention Research and Evaluation section:

1. Presented “Moving Beyond Performance Measurement: The Importance of Context in Designing California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) Evaluation Plan for Project PrIDE” as part of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-sponsored panel presentation at the American Evaluation Association conference in Washington D.C.; and
2. Co-presented a workshop titled “Designing Transgender and Gender Non-Binary Inclusive Surveys and Forms” alongside staff from the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health at the National Transgender Health Summit in Oakland, CA.

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