

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST**

**PROPOSED SPA TO UPDATE THE AUGMENTATION PAYMENTS FOR  
MEDI-CAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
PURSUANT TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AIR TRANSPORTATION ACT**

This notice provides information of public interest with respect to the supplemental payments and rate augmentations that are proposed for Medi-Cal air medical transportation services provided to Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service beneficiaries. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 17-019 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to continue implementation of Medi-Cal supplemental payments through rate augmentations for air medical transportation services, pursuant to the provisions of the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act, or "EMATA." (Senate Bill 326, Beall, Chapter 797, Statutes of 2015).

Effective January 1, 2011, the EMATA required county courts to levy and collect an additional \$4 penalty on vehicle violations statewide, with the exception of parking offenses, for the purpose of providing rate augmentations for Medi-Cal air medical transportation services. Each county deposits its penalty collections into the EMATA Fund, a State special fund. The penalty collections are available to DHCS to augment reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal air medical transportation services. Payments are based on the total pool amount in the EMATA Fund divided among the total eligible air medical transportation providers that have submitted claims and received payment for eligible services.

Upon federal approval of the SPA, DHCS will make biannual augmentation payments for each eligible emergency air transport services provided in state fiscal year (SFY) 2017-18. These augmentation payments are expected to be approximately \$10 million in the aggregate. The payments will be made using monies available in the EMATA Fund and any available federal matching funds. Payments are anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2018.

Effective July 1, 2012, and for each SFY thereafter, until January 1, 2018, the \$4 penalty will be collected for the EMATA Fund which will be used by DHCS to provide for biannual augmentations to emergency air medical transportation reimbursement rates. The augmentation payments will be provided for services provided in the Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service program.

This action will not impact the State General Fund.

Proposed SPA 17-019 will amend the provisions on pages 6 and 7 of the Supplement to Attachment 4.19-B within the California State Plan.

## Public Review and Comments

A copy of SPA 17-019 will be published at [http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pro\\_SPA.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pro_SPA.aspx) once the SPA is available. If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of the SPA from the mailing address or email, below.

Any written comments regarding SPA 17-019 may be sent to Department of Health Care Services, Fee-For-Service Rate Development Division, 1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4600, Sacramento, California 95899-7417, or may be emailed to [Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov). For a copy of public comments regarding SPA 17-019, please send a written request to the above address or e-mail inbox. Please indicate SPA 17-019 in the subject line or message.

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