



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION QUALITY ASSURANCE FEE PROGRAM

This notice provides information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 26-0021 proposes to renew the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) program and the reimbursement add-on provided for Medi-Cal ground emergency medical transports, effective for dates of service from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Senate Bill 523 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2017) established a QAF program for GEMT services, effective July 1, 2018. Under the GEMT QAF program, DHCS collects a QAF on all GEMT services by a provider subject to the QAF, regardless of payer type, as identified by the service codes listed below. The QAF is used to increase reimbursement to eligible emergency medical transport providers by application of an add-on to the Medi-Cal fee-for-service fee schedule rate for the following service codes:

Service Code	Description
A0225	Neonatal Emergency Transport
A0429	Basic Life Support, Emergency
A0427	Advanced Life Support, Level 1, Emergency
A0433	Advanced Life Support, Level 2
A0434	Specialty Care Transport

SPA 26-0021 will continue the add-on increase to the Medi-Cal fee-for-service fee schedule amount for the above-listed service codes at \$220.80 for the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. DHCS estimates that for state fiscal year (SFY) 2026-27, the aggregate Medi-Cal fee-for-service expenditures for ground emergency medical transports will increase by \$20 million in total funds.



Relatedly, DHCS submitted SPA 25-0030 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposing to continue the Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (PP-GEMT) Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Program, effective for dates of service from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 1705 (Chapter 544, Statutes of 2019), public providers eligible for the PP-GEMT IGT program are not eligible to participate in the GEMT QAF program. Public providers are no longer assessed the QAF prospectively and are not eligible to receive the add-on through the GEMT QAF program.

The effective date of the proposed SPA 26-0021 is July 1, 2026. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 26-0021 will be published on: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/PendingStatePlanAmendments.aspx>.

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 proposed SPA 26-0021 using the mailing or email address listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Provider Rates Division
Attn: Michelle Tamai
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 26-0021 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 26-0021 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.