



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT BENEFIT POLICY IN THE MEDICAID STATE PLAN

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The proposed SPA 26-0033 and corresponding Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) SPA 26-0034 will update the Medicaid State Plan language governing Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services to clarify policy, including utilization management controls, and support enhanced program integrity efforts aimed at reducing potential fraud, waste, and abuse.

DHCS does not anticipate any additional fiscal impact in terms of increased costs as a result of SPA 26-0033 and ABP SPA 26-0034.

The effective date of SPA 26-0033 and ABP SPA 26-0034 is July 1, 2026. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 26-0033 and ABP SPA 26-0034 will be published on <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2026.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 26-0033 and/or SPA 26-0034 using the mailing or email addresses listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Benefits Division
Attn: Medi-Cal Benefits Policy Branch
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 26-0033 and/or SPA 26-0034 in the subject line or message.



A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 26-0033 and SPA 26-0034 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.