



# NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

## PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY HOSPICE BENEFIT POLICY IN THE MEDICAID STATE PLAN

This notice provides information of public interest regarding a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The proposed SPA 26-0035 updates the Medicaid State Plan language governing hospice services to conform to recent changes in state law and clarify the application of utilization management controls consistent with applicable federal and state requirements and current DHCS administration of Medi-Cal covered hospice services. These updates are also intended to support medical necessity review and program integrity efforts.

DHCS does not anticipate any additional fiscal impact in terms of increased costs as a result of SPA 26-0035.

The effective date of SPA 26-0035 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 26-0035 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 26-0035 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](mailto:PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA 26-0035 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 26-0035 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.

