

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) PROPOSES TO SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA) TO DEFINE COVERAGE FOR NON-MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NMT) SERVICES UNDER THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM.

DHCS will submit SPAs 17-017 and 17-018 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals to define NMT services under the Medi-Cal program, pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2394 (Garcia, Chapter 615, Statutes of 2016).

Additionally, this notice provides information of public interest with respect to Section 440.386 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which requires Medicaid states to publish a public notice to solicit public input regarding the amendment to the Medi-Cal Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP). DHCS assures full access to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services for people under 21 years of age, as described by 42 CFR 440.345. DHCS will submit SPA 17-018 to the CMS to seek the necessary approval to incorporate NMT services under the Medi-Cal program in the ABP, as defined pursuant to AB 2394.

Defining Non-Medical Transportation Services

Existing state law provides for nonemergency medical transportation services under Medi-Cal, which provides transportation by litter vans, wheelchair vans, and ambulances when ordinary public or private conveyance is medically contra-indicated and transportation is required for obtaining needed medical care. Effective July 1, 2017, and as authorized by AB 2394, Medi-Cal intends to define NMT services in the State Plan for all eligible beneficiaries to travel to and from covered medical, mental health, substance use disorder, and dental services. The SPA will explain that NMT services also includes mileage reimbursement when transportation is in a private vehicle. SPAs 17-017 and 17-018 will be submitted to ensure DHCS obtains federal financial participation and necessary federal approvals. NMT services provided under the Medi-Cal ABP will be the same schedule of NMT services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, as when required by the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14132(ad).

Public Review and Comment

The California statute discussed above is available at www.leginfo.com. Interested parties may submit written comments, request copies of the statute, and/or request copies the written comments to Cynthia Smiley, Chief, Benefits Division; Department of Health Care Services; MS 4601; P.O. Box 997417; Sacramento, CA 95899-7417. All written comments must be received by September 28, 2017.