

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 8, 2021**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT REGARDING
THE GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT
QUALITY ASSURANCE FEE PROGRAM**

This notice provides information of public interest regarding a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 21-0017 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 the service period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Senate Bill (SB) 523 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2017) established a QAF program for GEMT, effective July 1, 2018. Under this program, DHCS collects a QAF on all GEMT, 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 amount for the following service codes:

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

Assembly Bill (AB) 1705 (Chapter 544, Statutes of 2019) establishes an Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) program for eligible public GEMT providers. Providers would be eligible to participate in this program if they provide GEMT services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, are enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider for the period being claimed, and are owned or operated by the state, a city, county, city and county, fire protection, special, or health care district, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. Participation in the program by an eligible public provider is voluntary. Once the IGT program is implemented, public providers in the IGT program will no longer be assessed the QAF prospectively and will not be eligible to receive the add-on pursuant to the GEMT QAF program. The IGT program is anticipated to be implemented on January 1, 2022, contingent on federal approval.

SPA 21-0017 will continue to increase reimbursement to GEMT providers by application of an add-on to the Medi-Cal fee-for-service fee schedule amount for the above-listed

service codes. DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for ground emergency medical transports will increase by \$30.6 million in total funds.

All SPAs are subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 21-0017 will be published at the following internet address:

https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending_2021.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 21-0017 using the mailing or email addresses listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Fee-For-Service Rates Development Division
Attn: Connie Florez
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 21-0017 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 21-0017 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.