

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2021**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL
PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE HOSPITALS IN THE HOSPITAL QUALITY ASSURANCE
FEE PROGRAM UP TO THE FEDERAL UPPER PAYMENT LIMIT**

This notice provides information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0036. Proposed SPA 21-0036 will provide supplemental payments to eligible hospitals that meet specified requirements and provide hospital inpatient services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The nonfederal share of these supplemental payments is funded by California's Hospital Quality Assurance Fee (HQAF), in accordance with Section 3.5 of Article XVI of the California Constitution and the Medi-Cal Hospital Reimbursement Improvement Act of 2013 (California Welfare and Institutions Code section 14169.50, et. seq.).

Supplemental payments provided to hospitals would be up to the aggregate upper payment limit (UPL) for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The proposed SPA would allow payments to be on a lump-sum quarterly basis and would not be paid as individual increases to current reimbursement rates for specific services.

Payments to eligible California private hospitals would supplement, and not supplant, existing levels of payments. Additionally, the payments would be subject to all applicable federal payment requirements and limits.

The proposed SPA is estimated to increase the aggregate payments to specified California private hospitals from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The corresponding hospital fee model is still under development. Pending finalization of the hospital fee model, the annual aggregate expenditures for inpatient services may be approximately \$2.3 billion. However, this amount is subject to finalization of the hospital fee model and may change.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is January 1, 2022.

All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, copies of proposed SPA 21-0036 will be published at: 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 copies of the SPA from the mailing address or email, below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Safety Net Financing Division
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS 4504
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 21-0036 in the subject line or message.

For a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 21-0036, please send a request in writing to the address or email inbox identified above.