

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 28, 2019**

**NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST FOR PROPOSED STATE
PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE AUGMENTATION PAYMENTS FOR
EMERGENCY AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

This notice provides information of public interest regarding the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act (EMATA) Program. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning the attached proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) #19-0012.

DHCS plans to submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) SPA #19-0012, which proposes to continue the augmentation payments for fee-for-service Medi-Cal emergency air medical transportation services for state fiscal year (SFY) 2019-20, in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act (EMATA). (Senate Bill 326, Chapter 797, Statutes of 2015; extended by Assembly Bill (AB) 1410, Chapter 718, Statutes of 2017).

Under the EMATA, an additional penalty of \$4 is imposed on Vehicle Code violations statewide, with the exception of parking offenses. The penalties collected under EMATA are transferred by counties into the Emergency Medical Air Transportation and Children's Coverage (EMATCC) Fund, formerly known as the EMATA Fund. AB 1410 allows DHCS to continue making augmentation payments to emergency medical air transportation providers through June 30, 2021, or until funds in the EMATCC Fund have been exhausted, whichever comes first. The augmentation payments will be made using monies available in the EMATCC Fund and any available federal matching funds.

Upon federal approval of the SPA, DHCS will continue to make bi-annual augmentation payments for each eligible emergency air medical transport service provided for the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 period. The effective date of the proposed SPA is July 1, 2019. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

The available total pool for augmentation payments in SFY 2019-20 is estimated to be \$10 million in Total Funds, which is an estimated \$3 million decrease from the prior SFY.

In addition, SPA #19-0012 will also correct clerical errors made to the SFY 2017-18 payment augmentation total pool for emergency air medical transportation services. The SFY 2017-18 total pool of funds available for fee-for-service augmentation payments for Medi-Cal emergency medical air transportation services was originally approved at \$10 million in SPA #17-019. However, in seeking approval for the SFY 2018-19 payment period in SPA #18-0030, a clerical error was made and the SFY 2017-18 total pool amount was inadvertently

changed from \$10 million to \$13 million.

The correct and approved total pool amount for the SFY 2017-18 is \$10,000,000. There is no fiscal impact from the proposed correction because it only seeks to correct a clerical error and restores the SPA language to the original and correct amount as approved in SPA #17-019.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #19-0012 will be published at the following internet address:

https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Proposed_2019.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 #19-0012 using the mailing or email addresses listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Fee-For-Services 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 #19-0012 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #19-0012 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.