

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST  
APRIL 16, 2019**

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

This notice provides information of public interest regarding the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) plan to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0020 to continue a time-limited Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) program and reimbursement add-on for Ground Emergency Medical Transports (GEMT) provided by emergency medical transport providers for the service period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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 ground emergency medical transports, regardless of payer type, as identified by the service codes listed below. An "Emergency medical transport" is defined as the act of transporting an individual from any point of origin to the nearest medical facility capable of meeting the emergency medical needs of the patient by an ambulance licensed, operated, and equipped in accordance with applicable state or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations that are billed with the following service codes from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020:

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

SPA 19-0020 will continue to allow the QAF to be used to increase reimbursement to emergency medical transport providers by application of an add-on to the Medi-Cal fee-for-service fee schedule amount for the above-listed service codes. The 2019-20 add-on amount will be calculated and the updated add-on amount will be shared with stakeholders on or before June 15, 2019 and included in SPA 19-0020.

The proposed effective date for SPA 19-0020 is July 1, 2019, with a proposed end date of June 30, 2020. SPA 19-0020 is subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of SPA 19-0020 will be published at:  
[https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Proposed\\_2019.aspx](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 the proposed SPA from the mailing address or e-mail address below.

Written comments may be sent to: Department of Health Care Services, Fee-For-Service Rate Development Division, 1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4600, Sacramento, California 95899-7417, or emailed to [Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA 19-0020 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 19-0020 may be requested in writing to the mailing address or e-mail inbox identified above.

Release Date: April 16, 2019