



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2025

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (GEMT)

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). SPA 26-0006 proposes to provide supplemental payment Uniform Dollar Increase (UDI) reimbursement add-on increases to enhance Medi-Cal payments for qualifying private GEMT services originating from a 911 call center or equivalent public safety answering for dates of service from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

Effective for dates of service from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, eligible private GEMT providers may receive the following add-on increase and supplemental payment for the following procedure codes:

Procedure Code	Description	Current Fee Schedule Rate	QAF Add-On Amount	Supplemental Payment Add-On Amount	Resulting Payment Amount
A0429	Basic Life Support, Emergency	\$118.20	\$220.80	\$70.91	\$409.91
A0427	Advanced Life Support, Level 1, Emergency	\$118.20	\$220.80	\$70.91	\$409.91

The base Medi-Cal fee schedule rates for GEMT services will remain unchanged. Public providers are not eligible to participate in the GEMT QAF program for periods when the PP-GEMT IGT program is in effect. The Supplemental Payment UDI add-on is limited to private providers of GEMT services originating from a 911 call center or equivalent public safety answering point and is in addition to the GEMT QAF add-on. DHCS requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning proposed SPA



26-0006, which is attached. Furthermore, DHCS will consult with the Protect Access to Health Care Act Stakeholder Advisory Committee on this proposed SPA 26-0006.

DHCS estimates that the aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for private GEMT services will increase by approximately \$2.6 million in total funds for six months (January 2026 to June 2026).

The effective date of the proposed SPA is January 1, 2026. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Public Review and Comments

The proposed changes included in draft SPA 26-0006 are enclosed in this notice for public comment. DHCS is requesting stakeholder input on the impact, if any, on access to services as a result of the proposed action.

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of proposed SPA 26-0006 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/PendingStatePlanAmendments.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 26-0006, or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 26-0006 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email address listed below. Please indicate SPA 26-0006 in the subject line or message.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Provider Rates Division
Attn: Aditya Voleti
P.O. Box 997413, MS 46000
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 26-0006 in the subject line or message.

To be assured consideration prior to submission of the SPA to CMS, comments must be received no later than January 29, 2026. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after January 29, 2026, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA 26-0006 to CMS.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE: CALIFORNIA

**SIX-MONTHS UNIFORM DOLLAR INCREASE (UDI) REIMBURSEMENT ADD-
ON FOR PRIVATE GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT (GEMT)
SERVICES**

Introduction

The supplemental reimbursement program provides increased reimbursement to eligible private providers of ground emergency medical transport (GEMT) services by application of a Uniform Dollar Increase (UDI) reimbursement add-on to the Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS) fee schedule rates. The add-on will apply to the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes described below, effective for services provided during the rate period of January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026. The base fee schedule rates for GEMT services will remain unchanged through this amendment.

Definitions

“Emergency medical transport” or “GEMT” means 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, excluding transportation by an air ambulance provider, that are billed with HCPCS Codes A0429 BLS Emergency, A0427 ALS Emergency, and A0433 ALS2, A0434 Specialty Care Transport, and A0225 Neonatal Emergency Transport. An “emergency medical transport” does not occur when, following evaluation of a patient, a transport is not provided.

“Eligible provider” means a provider who is eligible for reimbursement of Medi-Cal emergency medical transports, and who continually meets all of the following requirements during the entirety of the rate period: (a) provides emergency Medi-Cal transports to beneficiaries, (b) is enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider for the period being claimed, and (c) is defined as a private provider, as described below.

“Private provider” means a provider that is not owned or operated by the state, a city, county, city and county, fire protection district organized pursuant to Part 2.7 (commencing with Section 13800) of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code, (as it read on January 1, 2026), special district organized pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 58000) of Division 1 of Title 6 of the Government Code, (as it read on January 1, 2026), community services district organized pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with Section 61000) of Division 3 of Title 6 of the Government Code, (as it read on January 1, 2026), health care district

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Supersedes

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organized pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 32000) of Division 23 of the Health and Safety Code, (as it read on January 1, 2026), or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Methodology

For services originating from a 911 call center or equivalent public safety answering point, effective for dates of service January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, the supplemental payment UDI add-on is fixed. The resulting payment amounts are equal to the sum of the FFS fee schedule base rate, the QAF and the supplemental payment add-on for each eligible ground emergency medical transport as listed by the HCPCS Code in the table below. The add-on is paid for each eligible HCPCS Code on a per-claim basis as a supplemental payment to the base rate.

HCPCS Code	Description	Current Fee Schedule Rate*	QAF Add-On Amount	Supplemental Payment Add-On Amount	Resulting Payment Amount
A0429	Basic Life Support, Emergency	\$118.20	\$220.80	\$70.91	\$409.91
A0427	Advanced Life Support, Level 1, Emergency	\$118.20	\$220.80	\$70.91	\$409.91
A0433	Advanced Life Support, Level 2	\$118.20	\$220.80	N/A	\$339.00
A0434	Specialty Care Transport	\$118.20	\$220.80	N/A	\$339.00
A0225	Neonatal Emergency Transport	\$179.92	\$220.80	N/A	\$400.72

* These are the base rates associated with these codes but are subject to further adjustments pursuant to the State Plan.

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