



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2025

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) PHYSICIAN EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT (E&M) SERVICES

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The proposed SPA 26-0007 is seeking federal authority to continue time-limited supplemental payments for Emergency Department (ED) Physician Evaluation & Management (E&M) Services, effective January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026. DHCS requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning proposed SPA 26-0007, which is attached below.

DHCS proposes that the supplemental payment will apply to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes listed below, effective January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026. The supplemental payments will be provided, in addition to Medi-Cal base rates, for the specified procedure codes on a per claim basis. The base rates for specified services will remain unchanged through this SPA.

Service Code	Description	Supplemental Payment
99282	Emergency department visit for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and straightforward medical decision making	\$7.31
99283	Emergency department visit for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and low level of medical decision making	\$13.38



Service Code	Description	Supplemental Payment
99284	Emergency department visit for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making	\$20.50
99285	Emergency department visit for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making	\$32.42

Only services rendered by a physician and billed on a professional claim (CMS 1500) will be eligible to receive these supplemental payments.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), and other providers that are reimbursed through an all-inclusive rate or a cost-based system will not be eligible for these supplemental payments.

DHCS estimates the aggregate Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) expenditures for ED Physician E&M services will increase by approximately \$7.6 million in total funds.

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

Public Review and Comments

The proposed changes included in draft SPA 26-0007 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. Furthermore, DHCS will consult with the Protect Access to Health Care Act Stakeholder Advisory Committee on this proposed SPA 26-0007.

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of proposed SPA 26-0007 will be published at <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 26-0007 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 26-0007 by requesting

it in writing to the mailing or email address listed below. Please indicate SPA 26-0007 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 46600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 26-0007 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 26-0007 to CMS.

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

**TIME-LIMITED SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY
DEPARTMENT (ED) PHYSICIAN EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT (E&M)
SERVICES**

1. Program Overview

- a. This program provides supplemental reimbursement for eligible Emergency Department (ED) physician Evaluation and Management (E&M) services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Supplemental reimbursements are provided in addition to the base rates for qualified ED physician E&M services. The base rates for these services remain unchanged and are published on the Medi-Cal Rates website.

2. Supplemental Reimbursement Methodology – General Provisions for Services Provided Between January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

a. Supplemental Payment Amounts

The supplemental payment amounts are fixed at the amounts listed in the chart below for each eligible ED physician E&M service listed by Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Code. The supplemental payment is paid on a per claim basis.

CPT Code	Supplemental Payment
99282	\$ 7.31
99283	\$ 13.38
99284	\$ 20.50
99285	\$ 32.42

3. Eligible Providers

- a. ED physician E&M services rendered by a physician who bills for the CPT codes listed above using the Health Insurance Claim Form (CMS-1500) are eligible for the supplemental payment established pursuant to this Supplement.

TN No: 26-0007

Supersedes

TN No: None

Approval Date: _____

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- b. Providers eligible for the supplemental payment amounts under this Supplement do not include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), or other providers that are reimbursed through an all-inclusive rate or a cost-based system.
- 4. Base rates for ED physician E&M services are the rates established by the Department of Health Care Services for each CPT Code, as published on the Medi-Cal Rates website: <https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammis.medi-cal.ca.gov/rates>.

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