



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 22, 2024

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE THE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT METHODOLOGY (APM) FOR COVID-19 VACCINE-ONLY VISITS TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs), RURAL HEALTH CLINICS (RHCs), AND TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS (THPs)

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 #24-0039 seeks approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to eliminate the APM reimbursement to FQHCs, RHCs, and THPs for COVID-19 vaccine-only visits.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditure for eliminating the APM reimbursement is estimated to be a cost savings of \$3,639,619 in total funds.

The effective date of the proposed SPA #24-0039 is October 1, 2024. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

Public Review and Comments

The proposed changes included in draft SPA #24-0039 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 the proposed SPA #24-0039 will be published on: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.aspx>.

If you would like to view SPA #24-0039 in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA #24-0039 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA #24-0039 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email address listed below. Please indicate SPA #24-0039 in the subject line or message.



Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Benefits Division
Clinical Policy and Special Program Branch
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA #24-0039 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 September 23, 2024. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after September 23, 2024, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA #24-0039 to CMS.

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