



# NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 29, 2023

## PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE AUGMENTATION PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION 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). Proposed SPA #23-0023 is seeking federal authority to renew the supplemental payment program for Emergency Air Medical Transportation Services.

DHCS plans to submit to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) SPA #23-0023, which proposes to continue augmentation payments for Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medi-Cal emergency medical air transportation services from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act (EMATA). (Gov. Code § 76000.10)

Under EMATA, penalty assessments of \$4 are 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. In accordance with Government Code section 76000.10, DHCS will continue to make augmentation payments to providers for eligible transport claims through December 31, 2023. 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 make augmentation payments for eligible emergency air medical transport services provided from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, in accordance with EMATA.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for Medi-Cal expenditures for emergency air medical transportation augment payments will be approximately \$4 million in total funds. The maximum pool for augmentation payments in State Fiscal Year 2023-24 is estimated to be \$4 million in total funds.



The effective date of the proposed SPA is July 1, 2023. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

## **Public Review and Comments**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #23-0023 will be published on: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2023.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 #23-0023 using the mailing or email address listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services  
Fee-For-Service Rates Development Division  
Attn: Provider Rates Section, SPA #23-0023  
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600  
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to [PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA #23-0023 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #23-0023 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.