

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT 24-0034 TO INCREASE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR THE PRENATAL SCREENING PROGRAM AND NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

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 24-0034 seeks federal approval to increase the Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) reimbursement rate for the Prenatal Screening (PNS) Program's cell-free DNA (cfDNA) screening using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 81420 and Proprietary Laboratory Analyses (PLA) code 0327U, effective July 1, 2024. Additionally, DHCS is seeking federal approval to increase the FFS reimbursement rate for the Newborn Screening (NBS) Program's Newborn Metabolic Screening Panel using code S3620, effective July 1, 2024.

In California, the PNS Program is administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 124977, CDPH periodically adjusts the PNS Program fee to fully support the Genetic Disease Screening Program (GDSP). This program provides genetic testing and early diagnostic testing for disorders. Specifically, it provides conventional biochemical screening for chromosome abnormalities involving a cfDNA Screening Program that screens for chromosomal abnormalities using CPT code 81420, or PLA code 0327U if the manufacturer requirements are met. PNS also provides a second biochemical screening that involves a Maternal Serum Alpha-Fetoprotein Screening Program (MSAFP) that screens for neural tube defects using CPT code 82105. Currently, CDPH charges a fee for performing these screening tests, for CPT codes 81420, 0327U, and 82105.

Furthermore, the NBS Program is administered by CDPH. Senate Bill 1095 (Chapter 393, Statutes of 2016) established Health & Safety Code section 125001(d), which required the NBS Program to expand statewide screening of newborns by adding adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) and any other disease that is detectable in blood samples within two years of the disease screen being adopted by the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP).

DHCS is submitting SPA 24-0034 to seek federal approval to increase the reimbursement rate from \$232.00 to \$344.00 for code CPT code 81420 and PLA code 0327U to reimburse providers for the PNS cell-free DNA (cfDNA) screening participation fee that CDPH will charge, effective July 1, 2024. This SPA also seeks to increase the reimbursement rate from \$211.00 to \$226.00 for code S3620 to fully reimburse providers for the Newborn Metabolic Screening Panel fee that CDPH will charge, effective July 1, 2024.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for the PNS Program will increase by approximately \$5.5 million in total funds, and the NBS program will increase by approximately \$1.3 million in total funds based on the most recent available data at this time.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is July 1, 2024. 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 Proposed SPA #24-0034 will be published at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2024.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 #24-0034 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 #23-0034
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA #24-0034 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to Proposed SPA #24-0034 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.