



**Tribal and Designee Medi-Cal Advisory Process  
Webinar on Proposed Changes to the  
Medi-Cal Program  
February 28, 2020**



# Purpose

- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is hosting this webinar regarding proposed changes to the Medi-Cal Program. This webinar will provide information and allow for feedback on State Plan Amendments (SPA) and Waiver Renewals/Amendments proposed for submission to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Background: Executive Orders recognize the unique relationship of Tribes with the federal government and emphasize the importance of States to work with Tribes on matters that may impact Indian health.
- This webinar is one way for DHCS to provide information about the Medi-Cal program and get feedback verbally and in writing.



# Agenda

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Presenters</b>
Welcome/Overview	Andrea Zubiante, Coordinator DHCS Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division/Indian Health Program
<b>SPAs Scheduled for Submission by March 31, 2020</b>	
SPA 20-0007 Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services (NEMT) Supplemental Payment Program Clarification	Phi Long Nguyen DHCS Fee For Service Rates Development Division
SPA 20-0009 Ground Emergency Medical Transport Quality Assurance Fee (GEMT QAF) Program	Rebecca Nix DHCS Fee-For-Service Rates Development Division/Provider Rates Section
Feedback/Closing	All



# State Plan Amendment Overview



# Medicaid State Plan Overview

State Plan: The official contract between the state and federal government by which a state ensures compliance with federal Medicaid requirements to be eligible for federal funding.

The State Plan describes the nature and scope of Medicaid and gives assurance that it will be administered in accordance with the specific requirements of Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter IV, and State law/regulations.

California's State Plan is over 1600 pages and can be accessed online at:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/CaliforniaStatePlan.aspx>



# State Plan Amendment (SPA) Overview

SPA: Any formal change to the State Plan.

Approved State Plans and SPAs ensure the availability of federal funding for the state's program (Medi-Cal).

The CMS reviews all State Plans and SPAs for compliance with:

- Federal Medicaid statutes and regulations
- State Medicaid manual
- Most current State Medicaid Directors' Letters, which serve as policy guidance.



# **SPA 20-0007**

## **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services (NEMT) Supplemental Payment Program Clarification**

**Phi Long Nguyen**  
**DHCS Fee For Service Rates Development Division**



# NEMT Supplemental Payment Program

The NEMT Supplemental Payment Program is a result of the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act (Commonly known as Prop. 56) established on November 8, 2016.

- SPA 19-0044 established the time-limited supplemental payment program for eligible Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) NEMT services using Prop. 56 funds, effective July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.
- CMS approved State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0044 on November 19, 2019.





# Background Information

- Upon implementation of the NEMT supplemental payment program, recently approved in SPA 19-0044, DHCS determined that certain billing codes were erroneously listed in SPA 19-0044 as eligible to receive a supplemental payment for non-emergency air and ground transportation.
- The erroneous billing codes are not services generally provided by or reimbursable to NEMT providers who are eligible for the NEMT supplemental payment.
- DHCS will submit SPA 20-0007 to seek federal approval to clarify the codes eligible for the supplemental payment, for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.



# Summary Of Changes

- The proposed SPA clarifies which codes are eligible for the supplemental payment.
- Provider Type 030 (Ground Medical Transportation) and 038 (Air Medical Transportation) will be eligible for the supplemental payments.
- The supplemental payment amounts are approximately equivalent to a 10 percent increase of the current rates for eligible Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) NEMT services, except for Codes A0130 and A0380, which will receive the equivalent of a 25 percent increase.



## **Impact to Tribal Health Programs and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**

- To the extent a FQHC is enrolled in Medi-Cal as a NEMT provider, the FQHC will receive an increase in reimbursement payments for eligible NEMT services.

## **Impact to Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**

- There is no impact to Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries who receive NEMT services.



# Resources

**California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act  
available at:**

**[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml  
?lawCode=RTC&sectionNum=30130.53.&article=2.5](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=RTC&sectionNum=30130.53.&article=2.5)**

**AB 74 is available at:**

**[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=  
201920200AB74](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB74)**



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**SPA 20-0009**

**Ground Emergency Medical  
Transport Quality Assurance  
Fee (GEMT QAF) Program**

**Rebecca Nix**

**DHCS Fee-For-Service Rates Development  
Division/Provider Rates Section**



# GEMT QAF Program

The Program is a result of SB 523 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2017).

- The GEMT QAF Program became effective July 1, 2018.
- State Plan Amendment (SPA) 18-0004 established an add-on amount of \$220.80 per transport for Medi-Cal transports billed with codes A0429, A0427, and A0433, effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved this SPA on February 7, 2019.
- SPA 19-0020 continued the add-on for codes A0429, A0427, and A0433, and added codes A0225 and A0434 as eligible for the add-on payments, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. CMS approved this SPA on September 6, 2019.



# What is QAF?

- **A quality assurance fee (QAF) is assessed on all ground emergency transports, including:**
  - Medi-Cal, Medicare, and all other payers.
  - All GEMT providers with an eligible transport
- **Benefit to providers**
  - The QAF revenue is matched with federal funds.
  - Allows for increased reimbursements in the form of an add-on to the current Medi-Cal ground emergency transport rates.





# QAF Calculations and Data Collection

- For the purposes of calculating the GEMT QAF, GEMT providers are required to submit to DHCS:
  - Total number of emergency medical transports for Codes A0427, A0429, A0433, A0225, A0434, and X0300. This data shall be submitted quarterly through the online portal.
  - Gross Receipt received from the provision of emergency medical transports for Codes A0427, A0429, A0433, A0225, A0434, and X0300. This data shall be submitted annually through the GEMT QAF email box using a submission form found on the GEMT QAF website.



# Summary of Proposed Changes

- The proposed SPA will seek federal approval to continue the current GEMT QAF Program for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

## Next Steps

- DHCS will submit SPA 20-0009 to CMS for the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 period.
- June 15, 2020
  - DHCS will post the 2020-21 QAF amount to the GEMT QAF webpage.



## **Impact to Tribal Health Programs and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**

- Tribally owned and operated GEMT providers must submit the required data reports and QAF payments to DHCS by the due dates.
- Tribally owned and operated GEMT providers will receive the increased reimbursement for each Medi-Cal GEMT service provided based on the five available codes.

## **Impact to Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**

- There is no impact to Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries who receive GEMT services.



# Resources

- **GEMT QAF Website:**  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/GEMTQAF.aspx>
- **GEMT QAF Portal:**  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/QAF.aspx>
- **SB 523:**  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180SB523](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB523)



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# Feedback/Questions