

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON STATE PLAN AMENDMENT 21-0009 WHICH PROPOSES TO ADJUST THE MEDI-CAL FEE-FOR-SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR RADIOLOGY SERVICES.

RELEASE DATE: DECEMBER 31, 2020

This notice serves to provide information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is seeking continuation of federal authority to adjust certain Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) reimbursement rates for radiology services. DHCS requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning the proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0009, which is attached below.

DHCS plans to submit to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) SPA 21-0009, which proposes to adjust certain Medi-Cal FFS rates for radiology services, effective January 1, 2021, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 14105.08. Specifically, rates exceeding 80 percent of the current Medicare rate will be reduced to 80 percent of the corresponding Medicare rate. Radiology services may be described as the diagnosis, treatment, and intervention using medical imaging techniques.

All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

DHCS estimates that expenditures for FFS radiology services will decrease by \$2.8 million in total funds annually.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The proposed changes included in draft SPA 21-0009 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 21-0009 will be published at the following internet address:

<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 21-0009 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 21-0009 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 21-0009 in the subject line or message.

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Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Fee-for-Service Rates Development Division
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA #21-0009 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 February 1, 2021. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after February 1, 2021, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA 21-0009 to CMS.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State: California

REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY FOR RADIOLOGY SERVICES

- 1) Except as otherwise noted in the State Plan, state-developed fee schedules are the same for both governmental and private providers of radiological services. The department's fee schedule rates for affected radiology procedure codes will be effective January 1, 2021, and will be effective for services provided on or after January 1, 2021. All Medi-Cal Fee for Service rates are published at: <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/rates/rateshome.asp>
- 2) Effective January 1, 2021, the reimbursement rates for radiology services will be set at no more than 80 percent of the corresponding Medicare 2021 Physician Fee Schedule rates. Any rate reflected at or below 80 percent will not be decreased.