

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 25, 2021**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE AUGMENTATION
PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

This notice provides information of public interest regarding a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The proposed SPA is seeking federal authority to renew the supplemental payment program for Emergency Air Medical Transportation Services, effective July 1, 2021.

DHCS plans to submit to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) SPA 21-0046, which proposes to continue the augmentation payments for fee-for-service Medi-Cal emergency air medical transportation services for state fiscal year (SFY) 2021-22, in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act (EMATA). (Senate Bill 326, Chapter 797, Statutes of 2015; extended by Assembly Bill (AB) 1410, Chapter 718, Statutes of 2017).

Under the EMATA, an additional penalty of \$4 is 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, formerly known as the EMATA Fund. The penalty assessments terminate on July 1, 2021; however, AB 2450 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2020) allows DHCS to continue making augmentation payments to emergency medical air transportation providers through December 31, 2022 or until the EMATCC Fund is exhausted. 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 for the July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 period, in accordance with the EMATA. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for emergency air medical transportation services will increase by \$10 million in total funds. The maximum pool for augmentation payments in SFY 2021-22 is estimated to be \$10 million in total funds, which is the same as the prior SFY.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA #21-0046 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 #21-0046 using the mailing or email addresses 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
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA #21-0046 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA #21-0046 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.