

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST  
RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2022**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) PROPOSES TO  
SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA) TO ADD DOULA SERVICES  
AND ESTABLISH A REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY.**

This notice provides information of public interest that DHCS proposes to submit SPA 22-0002 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek necessary approvals to add doula services as a covered Medi-Cal benefit and establish a reimbursement methodology. The effective date for SPA 22-0002 will be January 1, 2023.

DHCS proposes to add doula services to the list of preventive services pursuant to Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 440.130(c), which must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within their scope of practice under state law. Doula services encompass the health education; advocacy; and physical, emotional, and nonmedical support provided before, during, and after childbirth or end of a pregnancy, including throughout the postpartum period. These services are aimed at preventing perinatal complications and improving health outcomes for birthing parents and infants. Doulas offer various types of support, including perinatal and labor support and guidance; health navigation; evidence-based education, including development of a birth plan; and linkages to community-based resources.

DHCS proposes to establish the Medi-Cal fee-for-service reimbursement rates for doula services based on existing Medi-Cal rates for similar services, as will be set on the December 31, 2022 fee schedule, and effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2023.

These services would be available under both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery system.

DHCS projects the overall fiscal impact to result in an aggregate expenditure increase of approximately \$1,334,000 in total funds (\$520,150 state general funds/\$813,850 federal funds) in state fiscal year 2022-23.

SPA 22-0002 is subject to approval by CMS.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 22-0002 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2022.aspx>

If you would like a physical copy of the SPA once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 22-0002 by writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 22-0002 in the subject line or message.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services  
Benefits Division  
Attn: Jim Elliott  
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4601  
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to [PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov) . Please indicate SPA 22-0002 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 22-0002 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.