

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST  
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 6, 2022**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROPOSES TO SUBMIT  
A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADD ASTHMA PREVENTIVE SERVICES  
AS A COVERED BENEFIT AND ESTABLISH A REIMBURSEMENT  
METHODOLOGY**

This notice provides information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0003 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek federal approval to add Asthma Preventive Services (APS) as a Medi-Cal covered benefit and to establish a reimbursement methodology for APS. The proposed effective date for SPA 22-0003 is July 1, 2022.

APS prevent disease progression, prolong life, and promote physical health. APS include evidence-based asthma self-management education and home environmental trigger assessments, consistent with the National Institutes of Health's Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Home environmental asthma trigger assessment means the identification of environmental asthma triggers commonly found in and around the home, including allergens and irritants.

APS may be provided by community health workers, promotores de salud, or community health representatives who meet the qualifications of an unlicensed asthma preventive service provider. APS may also be provided by licensed providers within their scope of practice. These services will be available in both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

DHCS proposes to establish the Medi-Cal fee-for-service reimbursement rates for APS at no more than 80 percent of the corresponding Medicare rate for the same or similar service, effective July 1, 2022. Proposed SPA 22-0003 is subject to approval by CMS.

APS will be exempt from the Assembly Bill 97 (Chapter 3, Statutes of 2011) ten percent payment reductions.

DHCS estimates that SPA 22-0003 will result in an increase in annual aggregate expenditures of approximately \$1.4 million in total funds (\$700 thousand state general funds and \$700 thousand federal funds).

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 22-0003 will be published at the following internet address:

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

If you would like to view the SPA once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 22-0003 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 22-0003 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 22-0003 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 22-0003 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.