

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST  
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 1, 2022**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROPOSES TO SUBMIT  
A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADD COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER  
SERVICES, ASTHMA PREVENTIVE SERVICES, AND ROUTINE PATIENT  
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN QUALIFYING CLINICAL  
TRIALS IN THE ALTERNATIVE BENEFIT PLAN**

This notice provides information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0019 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek federal approval to add community health worker (CHW) services, asthma preventive services, and routine patient costs associated with participation in qualifying clinical trials as a Medi-Cal covered benefit in the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP). The proposed effective date for SPA 22-0019 is July 1, 2022.

This SPA will bring the ABP in line with changes made by SPAs 22-0001 for CHW services, SPA 22-0003 for asthma preventive services, and SPA 22-0017 for routine costs for participation in clinical trials. DHCS submitted SPA 22-0001 to CMS on April 29, 2022, and will submit SPAs 22-0003 and 22-0017 by June 30, 2022. All SPAs are subject to approval by CMS.

Additionally, this notice provides information of public interest with respect to Section 440.386 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which requires Medicaid state programs to publish a public notice to solicit public input regarding the amendment to the Medi-Cal ABP. DHCS provides a comprehensive set of services under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment benefit for people under 21 years of age, as described by 42 CFR 440.345. DHCS will submit SPA 22-0019 to CMS to seek the necessary approval to add CHW services, asthma preventive services, and routine patient costs associated with participation in qualifying clinical trials to the Other 1937 Benefits Provided portion of the ABP. DHCS complied with the provisions of Section 5006(e) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and published the tribal notice for 22-0019 on May 18, 2022.

SPA 22-0001 will add CHWs as another class of skilled and trained individuals who are able to provide clinically appropriate Medi-Cal covered benefits and services, effective July 1, 2022. These services will be available in both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

SPA 22-0003 will add asthma preventive services by unlicensed and licensed providers. It will include asthma self-management education and home environmental trigger assessments. Asthma preventive services may be provided by licensed providers as well as unlicensed CHWs, promotores de salud, or community health representatives who meet the qualifications of an asthma preventive service provider, as defined in SPA

22-0003. These services will be available in both the FFS and managed care delivery systems.

SPA 22-0017 will add coverage for routine patient costs for items and services furnished in connection with participation by Medi-Cal beneficiaries in qualifying clinical trials, as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Medi-Cal currently covers routine patient care costs for cancer-related clinical trials that meet certain requirements, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14132.98. The Consolidated Appropriations Act amended sections 1905(a)(30) and 1905(gg) of the Social Security Act to require state Medicaid programs to cover routine patient care costs for qualifying clinical trials, as defined in section 1905(gg)(2). This includes any item or service provided to prevent, diagnose, monitor, or treat complications resulting from participation in the qualifying clinical trial for items or services that would otherwise be covered under the State Plan or Waiver.

DHCS is proposing to establish the Medi-Cal FFS reimbursement rates for CHW services and asthma preventive services at no more than 80 percent of the corresponding Medicare rate for the same or similar service, effective July 1, 2022.

DHCS estimates that SPA 22-0019 will result in an increase in annual aggregate expenditures of approximately \$9.54 million in total funds (\$4.77 million state general funds and \$4.77 million federal funds).

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 22-0019 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 22-0019 by writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 22-0019 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 22-0019 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to SPA 22-0019 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email addresses identified above.