

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 30, 2022**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO
ESTABLISH A REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR THE COGNITIVE HEALTH
ASSESSMENT BENEFIT**

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 22-0046 is seeking federal authority to establish a reimbursement rate for the cognitive health assessment benefit, effective July 1, 2022. DHCS requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning proposed SPA 22-0046, which is attached to this notice.

DHCS is developing the Dementia Aware initiative to establish a statewide provider training program in culturally competent dementia care, as well as establish a referral protocol on cognitive health and dementia for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. In alignment with the Dementia Aware initiative, Senate Bill (SB) 48 (Chapter 484, Statutes of 2021) added Section 14132.171 to the Welfare and Institutions Code to establish annual cognitive health assessment as a Medi-Cal covered benefit. The annual cognitive health assessment will be available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, 65 years of age or older, who are otherwise ineligible for a similar annual cognitive health assessment through the Medicare program.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is July 1, 2022. For dates of service on or after July 1, 2022, DHCS will establish the reimbursement rate for the cognitive health assessment at \$29.00.

DHCS estimates that the increase in annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for the cognitive health assessment will be approximately \$595,000 in total funds.

SPA 22-0046 is subject to approval by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The proposed additions included in draft SPA 22-0046 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 22-0046 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 in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 22-0046 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 22-0046 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 22-0046 in the subject line or message.

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 22-0046 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 July 31, 2022. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after July 31, 2022, however, DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of SPA 22-0046 to CMS.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE: CALIFORNIA

REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY FOR COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

1. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Attachment, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will establish the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for the annual cognitive assessment benefit for the Dementia Care Aware program, as authorized in Attachment 3.1-A, section 13c, using the following methodology:
 - a. For dates of service on or after July 1, 2022, the reimbursement rate will be \$29.00.
 - b. The ten percent payment reduction, described in paragraph (13) on page 3.3 of this Attachment, shall apply to the services described in this section if billed by a non-exempt provider, as described in paragraph (16) on page 3.4 of this Attachment.
 - c. All Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service rates for Dementia Care Aware annual cognitive assessment services are published at: <https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/rates/rateshome.aspx>.