

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 16, 2022**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO
ESTABLISH REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR VACCINE
ADMINISTRATION TO RESPOND TO THE MONKEYPOX PUBLIC
HEALTH EMERGENCY**

This notice provides information of public interest that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0062 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek federal authority to establish reimbursement rates for monkeypox vaccine administration. Secretary Becerra declared a public health emergency on August 4, 2022 as a result of the consequences of an outbreak of monkeypox cases across multiple states.

In response to the declared public health emergency, DHCS is proposing to establish the Medi-Cal FFS reimbursement rates for monkey pox vaccine administration at 100 percent of the corresponding Medicare rate for the same or similar service, effective August 17, 2022 through the end of the declared public health emergency. At the conclusion of the declared public health emergency the reimbursement methodology is expected to return to the methodology as describe in State Plan Attachment 4.19-B. Proposed SPA 22-0062 is subject to approval by CMS.

Additionally, DHCS proposes to reimburse Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers and Tribal Federally Qualified Health Center (Tribal FQHCs) providers a supplemental amount for monkeypox vaccine only visits. This alternative payment methodology will be additional reimbursement above the applicable Prospective Payment Systems (PPS)/alternative payment methodology (APM) approved in State Plan Attachment 4.19-B. This APM will reimburse clinics an additional payment equal to the established FFS rate when a monkeypox vaccine is administered on its own.

The proposed effective date for SPA 22-0062 is August 17, 2022.

Given that CMS has not yet issued Medicare rates for these services and there is uncertainty regarding the amount and availability of vaccine doses, DHCS is unable to determine the fiscal impact of these changes but they will result in increased annual aggregate expenditures for these services.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed SPA 22-0062 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 22-0062 or a copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 22-0062 by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate SPA 22-0062 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 22-0062 in the subject line or message.