

June 26, 2026

Tyler Sadwith, State Medicaid Director
California Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Avenue, 6th Floor, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Tyler Sadwith:

In accordance with 42 CFR 438.6(c), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reviewed and is approving California's submission of a proposal for a state directed payment (SDP) under Medicaid managed care plan contract(s). The proposal was received by CMS on December 6, 2024, and a final revised preprint was received on May 15, 2026. The proposal has a control name of CA_Fee_IPH.OPH1_Renewal_20250101-20251231.

CMS has completed our review of the following Medicaid managed care SDP(s):

- Uniform increase for inpatient and outpatient hospital services provided by private hospitals as defined in CA Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) § 14169.51(ap) for the rating period covering January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, incorporated in the capitation rates through a separate payment term amount up to \$8,811,746,000.

This letter satisfies the regulatory requirement in 42 CFR 438.6(c)(2) for SDPs described in 42 CFR 438.6(c)(1). This letter pertains only to the actions identified above and does not apply to other actions currently under CMS's review. This letter does not constitute approval of any specific Medicaid financing mechanism used to support the non-federal share of expenditures associated with these actions. All relevant federal laws and regulations apply. CMS reserves its authority to enforce requirements in the Social Security Act and the applicable implementing regulations.

Based on CMS's preliminary determination, this SDP proposal likely qualifies for the temporary grandfathering period in section 71116(b) of the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) legislation (Public Law 119-21). CMS acknowledges that this determination is preliminary in nature and policies will be finalized as part of notice and comment rulemaking. CMS will enforce all federal requirements, including section 71116, and CMS's assessment may be revised if further information is identified that alters the initial assessment.

Until the phase down required by section 71116 begins, the total dollar amount of a grandfathered SDP (as specified in item 4 of the current SDP preprint form) cannot increase and a state cannot increase this total dollar amount under any change or revision to the grandfathered SDP, including an amendment to the SDP, or subsequent renewal of this SDP for a future rating period. For rating periods beginning on or after January 1, 2028, grandfathered SDPs must comply with the specified phase down requirements.

The state is required to submit contract action(s) and related capitation rates that include all SDPs, including those that do not require written prior approval as specified in 42 CFR

438.6(c)(2)(i). Additionally, all SDPs must be addressed in the applicable rate certifications. CMS recommends that states share this letter and the preprint(s) with the certifying actuary. Documentation of all SDPs must be included in the initial rate certification as outlined in Section I, Item 4, Subsection D, of the [Medicaid Managed Care Rate Development Guide](#). The state and its actuary must ensure all documentation outlined in the Medicaid Managed Care Rate Development Guide is included in the initial rate certification. Failure to provide all required documentation in the rate certification will cause delays in CMS review.

Approval of this SDP proposal for the applicable rating period does not preclude CMS from requesting additional materials from the state, revision to the SDP proposal design, or any other modifications to the proposal for this rating period or future rating periods, if CMS determines that such modifications are required for the state to meet relevant federal requirements.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact StateDirectedPayment@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

John Giles
Director, Managed Care Group
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Section 438.6(c) Preprint

42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c) provides States with the flexibility to implement delivery system and provider payment initiatives under MCO, PIHP, or PAHP Medicaid managed care contracts (i.e., state directed payments). 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1) describes types of payment arrangements that States may use to direct expenditures under the managed care contract. Under 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii), contract arrangements that direct an MCO's, PIHP's, or PAHP's expenditures under paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(ii) and (c)(1)(iii)(B) through (D) must have written approval from CMS prior to implementation and before approval of the corresponding managed care contract(s) and rate certification(s). This preprint implements the prior approval process and must be completed, submitted, and approved by CMS before implementing any of the specific payment arrangements described in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(ii) and (c)(1)(iii)(B) through (D). Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules using State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).

Submit all state directed payment preprints for prior approval to:
StateDirectedPayment@cms.hhs.gov.

SECTION I: DATE AND TIMING INFORMATION

1. Identify the State's managed care contract rating period(s) for which this payment arrangement will apply (for example, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021):
January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
2. Identify the State's requested start date for this payment arrangement (for example, January 1, 2021). *Note, this should be the start of the contract rating period unless this payment arrangement will begin during the rating period.* January 1, 2025
3. Identify the managed care program(s) to which this payment arrangement will apply:
Mainstream Managed Care Plans (County Organized Health System plans, Geographic Managed Care plans, Regional Model plans, Two-Plan Model plans, and Single-Plan Model plans) and AIDS Healthcare Foundation
4. Identify the estimated **total dollar amount** (federal and non-federal dollars) of this state directed payment: **\$8,811,746,000**
 - a. Identify the estimated federal share of this state directed payment: **60%**
 - b. Identify the estimated non-federal share of this state directed payment: **40%**

Please note, the estimated total dollar amount and the estimated federal share should be described for the rating period in Question 1. If the State is seeking a multi-year approval (which is only an option for VBP/DSR payment arrangements (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(i)-(ii))), States should provide the estimates per rating period. For amendments, states should include the change from the total and federal share estimated in the previously approved preprint.
5. Is this the initial submission the State is seeking approval under 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c) for this state directed payment arrangement? ☐ Yes ☒ No

6. If this is not the initial submission for this state directed payment, please indicate if:
- a. ☐ The State is seeking approval of an amendment to an already approved state directed payment.
 - b. ☒ The State is seeking approval for a renewal of a state directed payment for a new rating period.
 - i. If the State is seeking approval of a renewal, please indicate the rating periods for which previous approvals have been granted:
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018; July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019; July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020; January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021; January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022; January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, and January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024
 - c. Please identify the types of changes in this state directed payment that differ from what was previously approved.
 - ☐ Payment Type Change
 - ☐ Provider Type Change
 - ☐ Quality Metric(s) / Benchmark(s) Change
 - ☒ Other; please describe:
Eligible providers will be categorized into one of three classes of providers; see Question No. 20, as well as adding an acuity factor to certain types of utilization.
 - ☐ No changes from previously approved preprint other than rating period(s).
7. ☒ Please use the checkbox to provide an assurance that, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(F), the payment arrangement is not renewed automatically.

SECTION II: TYPE OF STATE DIRECTED PAYMENT

8. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(A), describe in detail how the payment arrangement is based on the utilization and delivery of services for enrollees covered under the contract. The State should specifically discuss what must occur in order for the provider to receive the payment (e.g., utilization of services by managed care enrollees, meet or exceed a performance benchmark on provider quality metrics).

PRIVATE HOSPITAL DIRECTED PAYMENT (PHDP) - PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 8. The State will direct Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) to make uniform dollar amount add-on payments to eligible network private hospitals based on actual network utilization of qualifying services. Total funding available for these enhanced contracted payments will be limited to a predetermined amount (pool). The pool funding and projected utilization will be assumed in the development of prospective actuarially sound rates.

Upon determination of actual utilization, the State will direct MCPs to make enhanced payments for contracted services utilized within each class of network private hospitals, via All Plan Letter or similar instruction. The State may calculate directed payment amounts based on actual utilization for two distinct periods within PY 8 (CY 2025) and direct MCP payments accordingly. Following the issuance of all enhanced payments, the State will notify CMS of the updated actual per-member-per-month (PMPM) increments adjusted for actual utilization.

- a. ☒ Please use the checkbox to provide an assurance that CMS has approved the federal authority for the Medicaid services linked to the services associated with the SDP (i.e., Medicaid State plan, 1115(a) demonstration, 1915(c) waiver, etc.).
- b. Please also provide a link to, or submit a copy of, the authority document(s) with initial submissions and at any time the authority document(s) has been renewed/revised/updated.

CMS approved the CalAIM Section 1115 demonstration and CalAIM Section 1915(b) waiver on December 29, 2021, and multiple subsequent amendments. The latest approval letters are linked below:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/CalAIM-Eval-Design-Approval.pdf>
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/CalAIM-1915b-Approval-Letter-Revised-STCs.pdf>

9. Please select the general type of state directed payment arrangement the State is seeking prior approval to implement. (Check all that apply and address the underlying questions for each category selected.)

- a. ☐ **VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS / DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM:** In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(i) and (ii), the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to implement value-based purchasing models for provider reimbursement, such as alternative payment models (APMs), pay for performance arrangements, bundled payments, or other service payment models intended to recognize value or outcomes over volume of services; or the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to participate in a multi-payer or Medicaid-specific delivery system reform or performance improvement initiative.

If checked, please answer all questions in Subsection IIA.

- b. ☒ **FEE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS:** In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(B) through (D), the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to adopt a minimum or maximum fee schedule for network providers that provide a particular service under the contract; or the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to provide a uniform dollar or percentage increase for network providers that provide a particular service under the contract. **[Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules using State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).]**

If checked, please answer all questions in Subsection IIB.

SUBSECTION IIA: VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS (VBP) / DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM (DSR):

This section must be completed for all state directed payments that are VBP or DSR. This section does not need to be completed for state directed payments that are fee schedule requirements.

10. Please check the type of VBP/DSR State directed payment the State is seeking prior approval for. *Check all that apply; if none are checked, proceed to Section III.*

- ☐ Quality Payment/Pay for Performance (Category 2 APM, or similar)
- ☐ Bundled Payment/Episode-Based Payment (Category 3 APM, or similar)
- ☐ Population-Based Payment/Accountable Care Organization (Category 4 APM, or similar)
- ☐ Multi-Payer Delivery System Reform
- ☐ Medicaid-Specific Delivery System Reform
- ☐ Performance Improvement Initiative
- ☐ Other Value-Based Purchasing Model

11. Provide a brief summary or description of the required payment arrangement selected above and describe how the payment arrangement intends to recognize value or outcomes over volume of services. If “other” was checked above, identify the payment model. The State should specifically discuss what must occur in order for the provider to receive the payment (e.g., meet or exceed a performance benchmark on provider quality metrics).

12. In Table 1 below, identify the measure(s), baseline statistics, and targets that the State will tie to provider performance under this payment arrangement (provider performance measures). Please complete all boxes in the row. To the extent practicable, CMS encourages states to utilize existing, validated, and outcomes-based performance measures to evaluate the payment arrangement, and recommends States use the [CMS Adult and Child Core Set Measures](#) when applicable. If the state needs more space, please use Addendum Table 1.A and check this box: ☐

TABLE 1: Payment Arrangement Provider Performance Measures

Measure Name and NQF # (if applicable)	Measure Steward/ Developer ¹	Baseline ² Year	Baseline ² Statistic	Performance Measurement Period ³	Performance Target	Notes ⁴
<i>Example: Percent of High-Risk Residents with Pressure Ulcers – Long Stay</i>	<i>CMS</i>	<i>CY 2018</i>	<i>9.23%</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>Example notes</i>
a.						
b.						
c.						
d.						
e.						

1. Baseline data must be added after the first year of the payment arrangement

2. If state-developed, list State name for Steward/Developer.

3. If this is planned to be a multi-year payment arrangement, indicate which year(s) of the payment arrangement that performance on the measure will trigger payment.

4. If the State is using an established measure and will deviate from the measure steward’s measure specifications, please describe here. Additionally, if a state-specific measure will be used, please define the numerator and denominator here.

a. Please describe the methodology used to set the performance targets for each measure.

b. If multiple provider performance measures are involved in the payment arrangement, discuss if the provider must meet the performance target on each measure to receive payment or can providers receive a portion of the payment if they meet the performance target on some but not all measures?

c. For state-developed measures, please briefly describe how the measure was developed?

14. Is the State seeking a multi-year approval of the state directed payment arrangement?

☐ Yes ☒ No

- a. If this payment arrangement is designed to be a multi-year effort, denote the State's managed care contract rating period(s) the State is seeking approval for.
- b. If this payment arrangement is designed to be a multi-year effort and the State is **NOT** requesting a multi-year approval, describe how this application's payment arrangement fits into the larger multi-year effort and identify which year of the effort is addressed in this application.

15. Use the checkboxes below to make the following assurances:

- a. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(A), the state directed payment arrangement makes participation in the value-based purchasing initiative, delivery system reform, or performance improvement initiative available, using the same terms of performance, to the class or classes of providers (identified below) providing services under the contract related to the reform or improvement initiative.
- b. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(B), the payment arrangement makes use of a common set of performance measures across all of the payers and providers.
- c. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(C), the payment arrangement does not set the amount or frequency of the expenditures.
- d. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(D), the payment arrangement does not allow the State to recoup any unspent funds allocated for these arrangements from the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP.

SUBSECTION IIB: STATE DIRECTED FEE SCHEDULES:

This section must be completed for all state directed payments that are fee schedule requirements. This section does not need to be completed for state directed payments that are VBP or DSR.

16. Please check the type of state directed payment for which the State is seeking prior approval. Check all that apply; if none are checked, proceed to Section III.

- a. ☐ Minimum Fee Schedule for providers that provide a particular service under the contract *using rates other than State plan approved rates*¹ (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(B))
- b. ☐ Maximum Fee Schedule (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(D))
- c. ☒ Uniform Dollar or Percentage Increase (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(C))

¹ Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules that use State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).

17. If the State is seeking prior approval of a fee schedule (options a or b in Question 16):

- a.** Check the basis for the fee schedule selected above.
 - i.** ☐ The State is proposing to use a fee schedule based on the **State-plan approved rates** as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a). ²
 - ii.** ☐ The State is proposing to use a fee schedule based on the **Medicare or Medicare-equivalent rate**.
 - iii.** ☐ The State is proposing to use a fee schedule based on an **alternative fee schedule established by the State**.
 - 1.** If the State is proposing an alternative fee schedule, please describe the alternative fee schedule (e.g., 80% of Medicaid State-plan approved rate)
- b.** Explain how the state determined this fee schedule requirement to be reasonable and appropriate.

18. If using a maximum fee schedule (option b in Question 16), please answer the following additional questions:

- a.** ☐ Use the checkbox to provide the following assurance: In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(C), the State has determined that the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP has retained the ability to reasonably manage risk and has discretion in accomplishing the goals of the contract.
- b.** Describe the process for plans and providers to request an exemption if they are under contract obligations that result in the need to pay more than the maximum fee schedule.
- c.** Indicate the number of exemptions to the requirement:
 - i.** Expected in this contract rating period (estimate)
 - ii.** Granted in past years of this payment arrangement
- d.** Describe how such exemptions will be considered in rate development.

² Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules that use State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).

19. If the State is seeking prior approval for a uniform dollar or percentage increase (option c in Question 16), please address the following questions:

- a. Will the state require plans to pay a ☒ uniform dollar amount **or** a ☐ uniform percentage increase? (*Please select only one.*)
- b. What is the magnitude of the increase (e.g., \$4 per claim or 3% increase per claim?)
Please see Attachment 2 for the estimated uniform dollar amounts.
- c. Describe how will the uniform increase be paid out by plans (e.g., upon processing the initial claim, a retroactive adjustment done one month after the end of quarter for those claims incurred during that quarter).

A retroactive adjustment done as early as 15 months after the end of the calculation period.

- d. Describe how the increase was developed, including why the increase is reasonable and appropriate for network providers that provide a particular service under the contract

See Question 21. This SDP replaces a pre-existing supplemental payment program (California's Hospital Quality Assurance Fee (HQA) Program/waiver, see Welfare & Institutions Code §14169.50, et. seq.), that has been an integral part of California's managed care program since 2010. The directed payment arrangement will continue to support hospitals that provide critical services to Medi-Cal managed care members.

The proposed 22.6% increase for PY 8 (relative to PY 7), in combination with changes to base rates and other directed payment arrangements, is designed to result in higher aggregate Medi-Cal managed care payment levels for applicable services relative to average Medicare and commercial rates (but still below 100% of average commercial rates) within the context of the goals of this directed payment arrangement. In addition, for PY 8, the increased pool amount accounts for higher payments for children's and critical access hospitals as well as enhanced payments for labor/delivery and hospital-based birthing center services via an adjustment for the acuity of services provided.

SECTION III: PROVIDER CLASS AND ASSESSMENT OF REASONABLENESS

20. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(B), identify the class or classes of providers that will participate in this payment arrangement by answering the following questions:

- a. Please indicate which general class of providers would be affected by the state directed payment (check all that apply):

- ☒ inpatient hospital service
☒ outpatient hospital service
☐ professional services at an academic medical center
☐ primary care services
☐ specialty physician services
☐ nursing facility services
☐ HCBS/personal care services
☐ behavioral health inpatient services
☐ behavioral health outpatient services
☐ dental services
☐ Other:

- b. Please define the provider class(es) (if further narrowed from the general classes indicated above).

Private hospitals as defined in CA Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) § 14169.51(ap) except those also classified as a New hospital according to WIC § 14169.51(ai).

Class 1 is composed of Children's hospitals as defined in WIC § 10727 and Shriners Hospital for Children, HealthBridge Children's Hospital, and Children's Hospital At Mission.

Class 2 is composed of Critical Access hospitals as defined in WIC § 14105.17.

Class 3 is composed of all other private hospitals as defined above.

- c. Provide a justification for the provider class defined in Question 20b (e.g., the provider class is defined in the State Plan.) If the provider class is defined in the State Plan, please provide a link to or attach the applicable State Plan pages to the preprint submission. Provider classes cannot be defined to only include providers that provide intergovernmental transfers.

The provider type is defined in State law, CA WIC § 14169.51(ap) and (ai).

21. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(B), describe how the payment arrangement directs expenditures equally, using the same terms of performance, for the class or classes of providers (identified above) providing the service under the contract.

The State will establish two pools from which the total uniform increment payments for each provider class will be made. For PY 8 (CY 2025), the two pools will consist of total amounts for:

- 1) contracted inpatient services, and
- 2) select contracted non-inpatient services (outpatient/emergency department services).

A weighted pro rata redistribution of a particular pool (1 or 2) shall be used to distribute a pool based on actual contracted utilization (as adjusted for the acuity of services provided). For example, if the number of inpatient claims/encounters exceeds what was initially projected in the rate development, the State will ensure that all eligible claims in the rate year receive a weighted pro rata portion of the pool.

22. For the services where payment is affected by the state directed payment, how will the state directed payment interact with the negotiated rate(s) between the plan and the provider? Will the state directed payment:

- a. ☐ Replace the negotiated rate(s) between the plan(s) and provider(s).
- b. ☐ Limit but not replace the negotiated rate(s) between the plans(s) and provider(s).
- c. ☒ Require a payment be made in addition to the negotiated rate(s) between the plan(s) and provider(s).

23. For payment arrangements that are intended to require plans to make a payment in addition to the negotiated rates (as noted in option c in Question 22), please provide an analysis in Table 2 showing the impact of the state directed payment on payment levels for each provider class. This provider payment analysis should be completed distinctly for each service type (e.g., inpatient hospital services, outpatient hospital services, etc.).

This should include an estimate of the base reimbursement rate the managed care plans pay to these providers as a percent of Medicare, or some other standardized measure, and the effect the increase from the state directed payment will have on total payment. *Ex: The average base payment level from plans to providers is 80% of Medicare and this SDP is expected to increase the total payment level from 80% to 100% of Medicare.*

If the state needs more space, please use Addendum 2.A and check this box: ☒

TABLE 2: Provider Payment Analysis

Provider Class(es)	Average Base Payment Level from Plans to Providers (absent the SDP)	Effect on Total Payment Level of State Directed Payment (SDP)	Effect on Total Payment Level of Other SDPs	Effect on Total Payment Level of Pass-Through Payments (PTPs)	Total Payment Level (after accounting for all SDPs and PTPs)
<i>Ex: Rural Inpatient Hospital Services</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>100%</i>
a. See addendum					
b.					
c.					
d.					
e.					
f.					
g.					

24. Please indicate if the data provided in Table 2 above is in terms of a percentage of:

- a. ☐ Medicare payment/cost
- b. ☐ State-plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a) (*Please note, this rate cannot include supplemental payments.*)
- c. ☒ Other; Please define: **Average commercial rate**

25. Does the State also require plans to pay any other state directed payments for providers eligible for the provider class described in Question 20b? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide information requested under the column "Other State Directed Payments" in Table 2.

- 26.** Does the State also require plans to pay pass-through payments as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a) to any of the providers eligible for any of the provider class(es) described in Question 20b? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide information requested under the column “Pass-Through Payments” in Table 2.

- 27.** Please describe the data sources and methodology used for the analysis provided in response to Question 23.

The average base payment levels from plans to providers as well as the total applicable unit counts are estimated based on unit costs and utilization assumed in the CY 2025 Medi-Cal managed care capitation rates for each applicable program, as well as class-specific unit share and unit cost differentials for each applicable service category. The class-specific unit share and unit cost differentials are as compared to the total units and average unit cost across all providers for each applicable category of service, and are based on a review of plan-submitted supplemental data. The SDP and applicable PTPs are converted to an add-on unit cost based on the sub-pool amounts and the estimated total applicable unit counts.

Percentages represent a comparison of projected CY 2025 Medi-Cal to a 2023 ACR for each class and service category. The ACR unit cost benchmarks are California- and class-specific, sourced from the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) hospital financial and utilization data for CY 2023.

- 28.** Please describe the State's process for determining how the proposed state directed payment was appropriate and reasonable.

As shown in Table 2, the total payment levels from plans to providers for each provider class and service type, after accounting for all SDPs and PTPs, fall below the ACR.

SECTION IV: INCORPORATION INTO MANAGED CARE CONTRACTS

- 29.** States must adequately describe the contractual obligation for the state directed payment in the state's contract with the managed care plan(s) in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c). Has the state already submitted all contract action(s) to implement this state directed payment? ☒ Yes ☐ No

a. If yes:

- i.** What is/are the state-assigned identifier(s) of the contract actions provided to CMS?

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- ii.** Please indicate where (page or section) the state directed payment is captured in the contract action(s).

2025 MCP Contract Exhibit B, 1.1.14

- b.** If no, please estimate when the state will be submitting the contract actions for review.

SECTION V: INCORPORATION INTO THE ACTUARIAL RATE CERTIFICATION

Note: Provide responses to the questions below for the first rating period if seeking approval for multi-year approval.

30. Has/Have the actuarial rate certification(s) for the rating period for which this state directed payment applies been submitted to CMS? ☒ Yes ☐ No

a. If no, please estimate when the state will be submitting the actuarial rate certification(s) for review.

b. If yes, provide the following information in the table below for each of the actuarial rate certification review(s) that will include this state directed payment.

Table 3: Actuarial Rate Certification(s)

Control Name Provided by CMS (List each actuarial rate certification separately)	Date Submitted to CMS	Does the certification incorporate the SDP?	If so, indicate where the state directed payment is captured in the certification (page or section)
i. MCR-CA-COHS-GMC-REGIONAL-SINGLEPLAN-TWOPLAN-20250101-20251231-CERTIFICATION-20241220	12/30/2024	Yes	State Directed Payments Section
ii. MCR-CA-AHF-20250101-20251231-CERTIFICATION-20241224	12/24/2024	Yes	State Directed Payments Section
iii. Pending Mainstream CY 25 Amended Rate Certification for updated line 4 amends i. listed above- Targeting 10/30/26 submission	10/30/2026	Yes	State Directed Payments Section
iv. Pending AHF CY 25 Amended Rate Certification for updated line 4 amends ii. listed above - Targeting 10/30/26 submission	10/30/2026	Yes	State Directed Payments Section
v.			

Please note, states and actuaries should consult the most recent [Medicaid Managed Care Rate Development Guide](#) for how to document state directed payments in actuarial rate certification(s). The actuary's certification must contain all of the information outlined; if all required documentation is not included, review of the certification will likely be delayed.)

c. If not currently captured in the State's actuarial certification submitted to CMS, note that the regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 438.7(b)(6) requires that all state directed payments are documented in the State's actuarial rate certification(s). CMS will not be able to approve the related contract action(s) until the rate certification(s) has/have been amended to account for all state directed payments. Please provide an estimate of when the State plans to submit an amendment to capture this information.

The actuarial certifications noted in b.i. and b.ii. include this state directed payment; this (amended) version will be captured in future rate amendments targeted to be submitted to CMS by 10/30/2026.

31. Describe how the State will/has incorporated this state directed payment arrangement in the applicable actuarial rate certification(s) (please select one of the options below):

- a. ☐ An adjustment applied in the development of the monthly base capitation rates paid to plans.
- b. ☒ Separate payment term(s) which are captured in the applicable rate certification(s) but paid separately to the plans from the monthly base capitation rates paid to plans.
- c. ☐ Other, please describe:

32. States should incorporate state directed payment arrangements into actuarial rate certification(s) as an adjustment applied in the development of the monthly base capitation rates paid to plans as this approach is consistent with the rate development requirements described in 42 C.F.R. § 438.5 and consistent with the nature of risk-based managed care. For state directed payments that are incorporated in another manner, particularly through separate payment terms, provide additional justification as to why this is necessary and what precludes the state from incorporating as an adjustment applied in the development of the monthly base capitation rates paid to managed care plans.

The certification will provide the methodology that will be used by DHCS to allocate actual payments associated with this payment arrangement. The estimated impacts of this payment arrangement on a PMPM basis will be provided in a supporting exhibit, but the estimated PMPM add-ons will not be included in the final rate ranges. A separate payment term is necessary in order to calculate and pay on actual contracted utilization. The separate payment term was designed to meet the objectives outlined in the quality strategy to deliver effective, efficient, affordable care.

33. ☒ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(i), the State assures that all expenditures for this payment arrangement under this section are developed in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.4, the standards specified in 42 C.F.R. § 438.5, and generally accepted actuarial principles and practices.

SECTION VI: FUNDING FOR THE NON-FEDERAL SHARE

34. Describe the source of the non-federal share of the payment arrangement. Check all that apply:

- a. ☐ State general revenue
- b. ☐ Intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) from a State or local government entity
- c. ☒ Health Care-Related Provider tax(es) / assessment(s)
- d. ☐ Provider donation(s)
- e. ☐ Other, specify:

35. For any payment funded by **IGTs (option b in Question 34)**,

- a. Provide the following (respond to each column for all entities transferring funds). If the state needs more space, please use Addendum Table 4.A and check this box: ☐

Table 4: IGT Transferring Entities

Name of Entities transferring funds (enter each on a separate line)	Operational nature of the Transferring Entity (State, County, City, Other)	Total Amounts Transferred by This Entity	Does the Transferring Entity have General Taxing Authority? (Yes or No)	Did the Transferring Entity receive appropriations? If not, put N/A. If yes, identify the level of appropriations	Is the Transferring Entity eligible for payment under this state directed payment? (Yes or No)
i.					
ii.					
iii.					
iv.					
v.					
vi.					
vii.					
viii.					
ix.					
x.					

- b.** ☐ Use the checkbox to provide an assurance that no state directed payments made under this payment arrangement funded by IGTs are dependent on any agreement or arrangement for providers or related entities to donate money or services to a governmental entity.
- c.** Provide information or documentation regarding any written agreements that exist between the State and healthcare providers or amongst healthcare providers and/or related entities relating to the non-federal share of the payment arrangement. This should include any written agreements that may exist with healthcare providers to support and finance the non-federal share of the payment arrangement. Submit a copy of any written agreements described above.

36. For any state directed payments funded by provider taxes/assessments (option c in Question 34),

- a.** Provide the following (respond to each column for all entries). If there are more entries than space in the table, please provide an attachment with the information requested in the table.

Table 5: Health Care-Related Provider Tax/Assessment(s)

Name of the Health Care-Related Provider Tax / Assessment (enter each on a separate line)	Identify the permissible class for this tax / assessment	Is the tax / assessment broad-based?	Is the tax / assessment uniform?	Is the tax / assessment under the 6% indirect hold harmless limit?	If not under the 6% indirect hold harmless limit, does it pass the "75/75" test?	Does it contain a hold harmless arrangement that guarantees to return all or any portion of the tax payment to the tax payer?
i. Hospital Quality Assurance Fee	Inpatient hospital services	No	No	Yes		No
ii. Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax	Managed care organizations	No	No	Yes		No
iii.						
iv.						
v.						

- b.** If the state has any waiver(s) of the broad-based and/or uniform requirements for any of the health care-related provider taxes/assessments, list the waiver(s) and its current status:

Table 6: Health Care-Related Provider Tax/Assessment Waivers

Name of the Health Care-Related Provider Tax/Assessment Waiver (enter each on a separate line)	Submission Date	Current Status (Under Review, Approved)	Approval Date
i. 1903(w)(3)(B) and (C) Hospital Quality Assurance Fee Program (HQAF) Phase IX	3/28/2025	Under Review. Originally submitted 3/28/2025; resubmitted following CMS direction and technical	
ii. MCO Tax: Broad-Based and Uniformity Requirements	3/27/2024	Approved	12/20/2024
iii.			
iv.			
v.			

37. For any state directed payments funded by **provider donations (option d in Question 34)**, please answer the following questions:

- a.** Is the donation bona-fide? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b.** Does it contain a hold harmless arrangement to return all or any part of the donation to the donating entity, a related entity, or other provider furnishing the same health care items or services as the donating entity within the class?
☐ Yes ☐ No

38. ☒ **For all state directed payment arrangements**, use the checkbox to provide an assurance that in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(E), the payment arrangement does not condition network provider participation on the network provider entering into or adhering to intergovernmental transfer agreements.

SECTION VII: QUALITY CRITERIA AND FRAMEWORK FOR ALL PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 39.** ☒ Use the checkbox below to make the following assurance, “In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(C), the State expects this payment arrangement to advance at least one of the goals and objectives in the quality strategy required per 42 C.F.R. § 438.340.”
- 40.** Consistent with 42 C.F.R. § 438.340(d), States must post the final quality strategy online beginning July 1, 2018. Please provide:
- a.** A hyperlink to State’s most recent quality strategy: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/2025-Comprehensive-Quality-Strategy.pdf>
 - b.** The effective date of quality strategy. January 1, 2025
- 41.** If the State is currently updating the quality strategy, please submit a draft version, and provide:
- a.** A target date for submission of the revised quality strategy (month and year):
 - b.** Note any potential changes that might be made to the goals and objectives.

Note: The State should submit the final version to CMS as soon as it is finalized. To be in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.340(c)(2) the quality strategy must be updated no less than once every 3-years.

- 42.** To obtain written approval of this payment arrangement, a State must demonstrate that each state directed payment arrangement expects to advance at least one of the goals and objectives in the quality strategy. In the Table 7 below, identify the goal(s) and objective(s), as they appear in the Quality Strategy (include page numbers), this payment arrangement is expected to advance. If additional rows are required, please attach.

Table 7: Payment Arrangement Quality Strategy Goals and Objectives

Goal(s)	Objective(s)	Quality strategy page
<i>Example: Improve care coordination for enrollees with behavioral health conditions</i>	<i>Example: Increase the number of managed care patients receiving follow-up behavior health counseling by 15%</i>	5
a. Goal 1: Engaging Members in their Care	Continue existing efforts to improve member experience and empower members to own their care and to inform Medi-Cal programs and policy through ongoing efforts.	62
b. Goal 2: Keeping Families and Communities Healthy	Increase member engagement with primary care and support primary care practices in transformation efforts so they can truly serve as the backbone of the delivery system.	63
c. Goal 3: Providing Early Interventions for Rising Risk	Help preserve health and quality of life for Medi-Cal members, thru critical programs that effectively manage chronic conditions and identify changes in health status as early as possible.	64
d.		

- 43.** Describe how this payment arrangement is expected to advance the goal(s) and objective(s) identified in Table 7. If this is part of a multi-year effort, describe this both in terms of this year's payment arrangement and in terms of that of the multi-year payment arrangement.

The State will direct MCPs to make enhanced payments to private hospitals, as defined in Question 20b, based on actual utilization of contracted services. These directed payments are expected to enhance quality, including the patient care experience, by supporting essential private hospital providers in California to deliver critical care, including primary, specialty, and inpatient (both tertiary and quaternary) care.

This SDP addresses children's preventive care and maternity care and birth equity. These clinical areas address the foundations of health (i.e., preventive efforts that have long-lasting impact from infants to seniors). Addressing child and maternal health and behavioral health for all populations will reduce chronic diseases and serious illnesses in the decades to come.

Access to care is the first step in realizing quality, health, and improved outcomes. This program will support the goals of promoting access and increasing credibility and accuracy of encounter reporting by private hospitals, which deliver critical care to Medi-Cal beneficiaries every day. In addition, this SDP creates a robust data monitoring and reporting mechanism with strong incentives for data, especially since this proposal links payments to actual reported encounters. This information will enable dependable data-driven analysis, issue spotting, and solution design to guide care management and care coordination needs.

44. Please complete the following questions regarding having an evaluation plan to measure the degree to which the payment arrangement advances at least one of the goals and objectives of the State's quality strategy. To the extent practicable, CMS encourages States to utilize existing, validated, and outcomes-based performance measures to evaluate the payment arrangement, and recommends States use the [CMS Adult and Child Core Set Measures](#), when applicable.

- a.** ☒ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(D), use the checkbox to assure the State has an evaluation plan which measures the degree to which the payment arrangement advances at least one of the goals and objectives in the quality strategy required per 42 C.F.R. § 438.340, and that the evaluation conducted will be *specific* to this payment arrangement. *Note:* States have flexibility in how the evaluation is conducted and may leverage existing resources, such as their 1115 demonstration evaluation if this payment arrangement is tied to an 1115 demonstration or their External Quality Review validation activities, as long as those evaluation or validation activities are *specific* to this payment arrangement and its impacts on health care quality and outcomes.

- b.** Describe how and when the State will review progress on the advancement of the State's goal(s) and objective(s) in the quality strategy identified in Question 42. For each measure the State intends to use in the evaluation of this payment arrangement, provide in Table 8 below: 1) the baseline year, 2) the baseline statistics, and 3) the performance targets the State will use to track the impact of this payment arrangement on the State's goals and objectives. Please attach the State's evaluation plan for this payment arrangement.

TABLE 8: Evaluation Measures, Baseline and Performance Targets

Measure Name and NQF # (if applicable)	Baseline Year	Baseline Statistic	Performance Target	Notes ¹
<i>Example: Flu Vaccinations for Adults Ages 19 to 64 (FVA-AD); NQF # 0039</i>	<i>CY 2019</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>Increase the percentage of adults 18–64 years of age who report receiving an influenza vaccination by 1 percentage point per year</i>	<i>Example notes</i>
i. Child and Adolescent Well Care Visits	CY 2021	47.51%	Increase MCAS measure by 1%	NCQA Measure
ii. Prenatal and Postpartum Care	CY 2021	Postpartum Care (81.39%) Prenatal Care (87.57%)	Increase MCAS measure by 1%	NCQA Measure
iii. Depression Screening and FU (Adol/Adults)	CY 2021	Ages 12–17 Years (21.37%) Ages 18–64 Years (13.00%)	Increase MCAS measure by 1%	CMS Measure
iv. See PY8 - CY 2025 - Attachment 1 - PHDP - Evaluation Plan				

1. If the State will deviate from the measure specification, please describe here. If a State-specific measure will be used, please define the numerator and denominator here. Additionally, describe any planned data or measure stratifications (for example, age, race, or ethnicity) that will be used to evaluate the payment arrangement.

- c. If this is any year other than year 1 of a multi-year effort, describe (or attach) prior year(s) evaluation findings and the payment arrangement's impact on the goal(s) and objective(s) in the State's quality strategy. Evaluation findings must include 1) historical data; 2) prior year(s) results data; 3) a description of the evaluation methodology; and 4) baseline and performance target information from the prior year(s) preprint(s) where applicable. If full evaluation findings from prior year(s) are not available, provide partial year(s) findings and an anticipated date for when CMS may expect to receive the full evaluation findings.

See website link for prior years, PY 1, PY 2, PY 3, PY 4, PY 5, and PY 6 including full evaluation findings and discussion of payment arrangement's impact:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/DP-PHDP.aspx>

Directions

2. For payment arrangements that are intended to require plans to make a payment in addition to the negotiated rates (as noted in option c in Question 22 of the State Directed Payment preprint file), please use the rows in Table 2.A below to add provider classes to Table 2 and an analysis showing the impact of the SDP on payment levels for each additional provider class. States may also use Table 2.A in lieu of completing Table 2 in the preprint. Input data only in beige cells in columns B - G.

States should only submit the tables they populate to CMS; please do not submit the entire workbook unless the State inputs data into Tables 1.A - 8.A. For example, if the state only needs extra rows to complete Table 2, in the preprint, please delete Tabs 1.A and 3.A - 8.A. CMS requests States submit the addendum tables with the preprint in this Excel format; please do not merge and re-PDF the preprint.

TABLE 2.A: Provider Payment Analyses

	Percentage of Commercial ^{1,2}	Provider Class(es)	Program	Average Base Payment Level from Plans to Providers (absent the SDP)	Effect on Total Payment Level of SDP	Effect on Total Payment Level of Other SDPs	Effect on Total Payment Level of Pass-Through Payments (PTPs)	Total Payment Level (after accounting for all SDPs and PTPs)
Data Format		Free text		Percent (#.##%)	Percent (#.##%)	Percent (#.##%) or N/A	Percent (#.##%) or N/A	Percent (#.##%)
Example		Rural Inpatient Hospital Services		80.0%	20.0%	N/A	N/A	100.0%
a		Private Children's Hospitals - Inpatient Hospital Services	Mainstream	32.56%	28.66%	5.87%	0.38%	67.48%
b		Private Children's Hospitals - Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Room Services	Mainstream	14.28%	23.89%	8.87%	0.82%	47.86%
c		Private Critical Access Hospitals - Inpatient Hospital Services	Mainstream	37.33%	30.62%	N/A	0.90%	68.83%
d		Private Critical Access Hospitals - Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Room Services	Mainstream	26.06%	43.90%	N/A	0.87%	70.83%
e		Private Non-Children's Hospitals and Non-Critical Access Hospitals - Inpatient Hospital Services	Mainstream	32.61%	21.48%	N/A	2.81%	57.00%
f		Private Non-Children's Hospitals and Non-Critical Access Hospitals - Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Room Services	Mainstream	15.91%	15.70%	N/A	1.60%	31.11%
g		Private Children's Hospitals - Inpatient Hospital Services	AIDS Healthcare Foundation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
h		Private Children's Hospitals - Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Room Services	AIDS Healthcare Foundation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
i		Private Critical Access Hospitals - Inpatient Hospital Services	AIDS Healthcare Foundation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
j		Private Critical Access Hospitals - Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Room Services	AIDS Healthcare Foundation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
k		Private Non-Critical Access Hospitals - Inpatient Hospital Services	AIDS Healthcare Foundation	20.49%	21.48%	N/A	1.60%	43.57%
l		Private Non-Critical Access Hospitals - Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Room Services	AIDS Healthcare Foundation	14.44%	15.70%	N/A	1.20%	31.34%
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Footnotes:
1. A meaningful comparison of payment rates between two different time periods requires considerations for the change in the price of services over time, or trend, from one period to the other. In the 2024 Final Rule preamble, CMS indicated that § 438.6(c)(2)(iv)(A) was intended to align with the rate development standards outlined in § 438.5. Rate development standards outlined in § 438.5 require that actuarially sound capitation rates include the application of cost trend factors. In the actuary's professional judgment, comparing commercial unit cost levels from a prior period to projected Medicaid unit cost levels in the rating period without the consideration for inflation and other cost changes in the interim, deviates from generally accepted actuarial principles and practices. Such a comparison is being performed by CMS request.
2. Percentages represent a comparison of projected CY 2020 Medi-Cal to a 2023 ACR for inpatient, and outpatient hospital and emergency room.