



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
626 8th Avenue, SE • Olympia, Washington 98501

December 23, 2025

NOTICE

Title or Subject: Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) 26-0003 Rural Emergency Hospitals

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Description: The Health Care Authority (HCA) intends to submit Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) 26-0003 to add information regarding Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH). REHs as defined in [42 CFR 485.502](#) do not provide inpatient care; they provide emergency department services, observation care, and other outpatient medical and health services and the per patient average length of stay does not exceed 24 hours.

At this time, Washington does not have any hospitals that are federally recognized as REHs. However, HCA is submitting SPA 26-0003, anticipating that one or more hospitals may be designated as REHs in the future

SPA 26-0003 is expected to have no effect on current annual aggregate expenditures/payments.

HCA is in the process of developing the SPA. HCA would appreciate any input or concerns regarding this SPA. To request a copy of the SPA when it becomes available or submit comments, you may contact the people named below by January 20, 2026 (please note that all comments are subject to public review and disclosure, as are the names of those who comment).

CONTACTS

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