

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1932

Introduced by Assembly Member Hernandez

February 17, 2010

An act to add Article 5.7 (commencing with Section 14186) to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1932, as amended, Hernandez. Medi-Cal: ambulance transportation services: *reimbursement: service levels*.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which health care services, including medical transportation services, are provided to qualified low-income persons. The Medi-Cal program is partially governed and funded under federal Medicaid provisions. Existing law and regulations prescribe various requirements governing payment policies and reimbursement rates for these services.

This bill would ~~enact the Ambulance Payment Reform Act of 2010, which would, notwithstanding any other provision of law, provide that emergency basic life support and advanced life support services are covered under the Medi-Cal program when, as determined by the department, a patient could reasonably expect that an absence of immediate medical attention would result in significant adverse health effects, as provided. The bill would require the department to develop~~

~~rates for specified emergency and nonemergency ambulance transportation services, but would prohibit these rates from exceeding the amount charged for these services to the general public.~~ *authorize the department to utilize certain service levels for purposes of determining reimbursement rates for emergency and nonemergency basic life and advance life support transportation and specialty care transportation, as defined.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. ~~The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
2 ~~following:~~

3 (a) ~~It is the intent of this act to ensure the provision of essential~~
4 ~~medically necessary emergency and nonemergency ambulance~~
5 ~~response and transportation services to the citizens of the State of~~
6 ~~California.~~

7 (b) ~~This act recognizes the vital role of ambulance services in~~
8 ~~the provision of quality health care and as a critical component of~~
9 ~~the public safety first response in times of natural or manmade~~
10 ~~disasters.~~

11 (c) ~~With the passage of the Emergency Medical Services System~~
12 ~~and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act in~~
13 ~~1980, the intent of the Legislature has been to maintain and~~
14 ~~promote the development of EMT-P paramedic programs where~~
15 ~~appropriate throughout the state and to initiate EMT-II limited~~
16 ~~advanced life support programs only where geography, population~~
17 ~~density, and resources would not make the establishment of a~~
18 ~~paramedic program feasible.~~

19 (d) ~~This act will ensure the continued viability of EMS systems~~
20 ~~throughout the State of California by establishing payment~~
21 ~~definitions and policies for the Medi-Cal program, as related to~~
22 ~~ambulance services, that meet nationally recognized standards.~~

23 (e) ~~This act will establish Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for~~
24 ~~essential emergency and nonemergency ambulance services that~~
25 ~~would at a minimum cover the actual costs of providing services.~~

1 ~~SEC. 2.~~

2 *SECTION 1.* Article 5.7 (commencing with Section 14186) is
3 added to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and
4 Institutions Code, to read:

5

6 Article 5.7. ~~Ambulance Payment Reform Act of 2010~~*Service*
7 *Levels for Ambulance Transportation Reimbursement Rates*

8

9 14186. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency
10 basic life support and advanced life support services are covered
11 under the Medi-Cal program, in accordance with Section 14186.1,
12 when, as determined by the department, a patient could reasonably
13 expect that an absence of immediate medical attention would do
14 at least one of the following:

- 15 (a) ~~Place the person's health in serious jeopardy.~~
- 16 (b) ~~Create a serious impairment to bodily function.~~
- 17 (c) ~~Result in a serious dysfunction in any bodily organ or part.~~

18 ~~14186.1. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,~~
19 ~~reimbursement for emergency and nonemergency basic life and~~
20 ~~advanced life support transportation shall be made in accordance~~
21 ~~with this section, but at no time shall rates exceed charges made~~
22 ~~to the general public.~~

23 (b) ~~Maximum reimbursement rates for ambulance transportation~~
24 ~~services shall be as follows:~~

25

26	Ground Mileage, Per Mile	\$6.74
27	Advanced Life Support,	-
28	Nonemergency Transport	\$283.28
29	Advanced Life Support, Emergency	-
30	Transport, Level 1	\$448.53
31	Basic Life Support, Nonemergency	-
32	Transport	\$236.07
33	Basic Life Support, Emergency	-
34	Transport	\$377.71
35	Advanced Life Support, Level 2	\$649.18
36	Specialty Care Transport	\$767.21

37

38 *14186. (a) For purposes of determining reimbursement rates*
39 *for emergency and nonemergency basic life and advanced life*

1 support transportation and specialty care transportation, the
2 department may utilize the following service levels:

- 3 (1) *Advanced Life Support, Nonemergency Transport.*
- 4 (2) *Advanced Life Support, Emergency Transport, Level 1.*
- 5 (3) *Basic Life Support, Nonemergency Transport.*
- 6 (4) *Basic Life Support, Emergency Transport.*
- 7 (5) *Advanced Life Support, Level 2.*
- 8 (6) *Specialty Care Transport.*
- 9 (e)

10 (b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
11 apply:

12 (1) “Advanced Life Support, Level 2” means either one of the
13 following:

14 (A) Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle, medically
15 necessary supplies and services, and the administration of at least
16 three medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous
17 infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic, and hypertonic
18 solutions such as dextrose, normal saline, and Ringer’s solution.

19 (B) Transportation, medically necessary supplies and services,
20 and the provision of at least one of the following advanced life
21 support procedures:

- 22 (i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion.
- 23 (ii) Endotracheal intubation.
- 24 (iii) Central venous line.
- 25 (iv) Cardiac pacing.
- 26 (v) Chest decompression.
- 27 (vi) Surgical airway.
- 28 (vii) Intraosseous line.

29 (2) “Specialty Care Transport” means interfacility transportation
30 of a critically injured or ill beneficiary by a ground ambulance
31 vehicle, including medically necessary supplies and services, at a
32 level of service beyond the scope of an emergency medical
33 technician-paramedic, as defined in Section 1797.84 of the Health
34 and Safety Code. Specialty Care Transport is necessary when a
35 beneficiary’s condition requires ongoing care that must be
36 furnished by one or more health professionals in an appropriate
37 specialty area, including, but not limited to, nursing, emergency

- 1 medicine, respiratory care, cardiovascular care, or a paramedic
- 2 with additional training.

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