



**Public Health Division
Emergency Medical Services**

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVE., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4751 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

January 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Ambulance Rates

The current Santa Cruz County ALS (Advanced life Support) emergency base rate permitted to be charged for ambulance transport services through the 9-1-1 system as of January 1, 2019 is \$3,010.52. In addition, the provider is allowed to charge for oxygen, mileage, and a non-transport fee. By comparison, in San Benito County (Hollister), the base rate is \$3489.18, with additional charges of \$247.96 for emergency response, \$247.96 for oxygen, and \$74.02 per mile. In Monterey County, the base rate, while lower at \$2,327.84, unlike Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, additional charges are added to the base rate charged for ancillary supplies used, such as CPAP (\$278.95), IO Supplies (\$365.86), Intubation Supplies (\$402.12), EKG Monitor (\$136.60), universal precautions, etc.

Our contract with AMR (American Medical Response) does not permit billing at a rate lower than the ALS base rate.

We believe this base rate to meet the criteria of "reasonable and customary" and vigorously audit AMR's financials annually, capping AMR's profitability.

If there is any other assistance I can provide for you, please let me know. I can be reached at 831-454-4751.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Brenner
EMS Director



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Santa Cruz County