



County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord

County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors
Phillip R. Serna, District 1
Patrick Kennedy, District 2
Rich Desmond, District 3
Rosario Rodriguez, District 4
Patrick Hume, District 5

February 27, 2025

Michelle Baass, Director
California Department of Health Care Services
Senate Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Re: Health Care Coverage: Emergency Medical Services Ambulance
Transport to Alternative Destinations

Dear Ms. Baass:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write regarding **the State's plans to reimburse ambulance providers who transport patients to alternative destinations, such as mental health facilities and sobering centers, instead of emergency rooms.**

In 2022, statute allowed counties to develop alternate destination programs. AB 716 (2023-24), now law, required insurance companies to pay the rate (approved by a local governing entity) to providers without insurance company dispute. The Governor signed SB 1180 (Ashby) *Health Care Services: EMS* (Sacramento County supported) in 2024, which allows these transporters to receive reimbursement for alternate destinations under private and Medi-Cal insurance, which is good news.

Sacramento County predicts about 100 patients per month may not need to be in the emergency room and are better cared for at alternative destination sites as evidenced by trends in state law. Triage to alternative destinations results in less congested and costly emergency room visits and patients can receive more direct, appropriate care.

As the administrator of Medi-Cal, which is governed and funded by federal Medi-caid, SB 1180 allows for DHCS reimbursement. The County inquires as to whether the State has a waiver plan for our MediCal/MediCare patients.

February 27, 2025

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The County is open to meeting with you or serving on a workgroup on Triage to Alternate Destinations Program reimbursements should you find it helpful. Thank you for your consideration and feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer