



JENNIFER KENT  
*Director*

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
*Governor*

April 11, 2017

Mr. Daniel Alvarez  
Secretary of Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

In accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 833 (Chapter 30, Statutes of 2016), Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 10752 mandates that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF), notify the California Legislature of: 1) the fiscal impact on the Medi-Cal program resulting from the termination of the \$4 penalty assessments levied to every Vehicle Code conviction, except parking offenses, under the authority of Government (GOV) Code Section 76000.10 (f); and 2) the planned reimbursement methodology for emergency medical air transports thereafter.

The Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act (EMATA) program provides an augmentation payment for eligible Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) emergency medical air transports. The augmentation payments are funded by the \$4 penalty assessment levied by the EMATA program, which is then deposited in to the EMATA Fund. After payment of the DHCS administrative cost, 20 percent of the remaining EMATA funds are used for the State's portion of the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for emergency medical air transportation services.

For the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, the 20 percent used for the State's portion of costs totaled \$2,322,000 and was transferred to the General Fund (GF). The remaining 80 percent is matched with Federal Funds (FF) and used to provide augmentation payments for eligible Medi-Cal emergency medical air transportation services. For FY 2015-16 augmentation payments were \$10,633,000 Total Funds (\$5,316,500 FF). DHCS develops two augmentation rates, one for rotary wing aircraft and another for fixed wing aircraft.

The 2015-16 Rate Year augmentation payment amounts were \$4,310 for rotary wing and \$3,053 for fixed wing transports. In FY 2015-16 there were 602 fixed wing and 1,993 rotary wing claims eligible for an augmentation payment. These augmentation payments are in addition to the current Medi-Cal FFS rotary and fixed wing base rates, which are \$1,800 and \$1,200 respectively.

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Following the termination of the \$4 penalty assessment, the reimbursement would return to the current Medi-Cal FFS rotary and fixed wing base rates, \$1,800 and \$1,200 respectively.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Jennifer Kent  
Director