



Michelle Baass | Director

DATE: Friday, May 15, 2026
TO: ALL GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS
SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA GEMT AVERAGE COMMERCIAL RATE PROVIDER SURVEY
PURPOSE:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is mandating all public and private California Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) providers to complete an Average Commercial Rate (ACR) Survey for the 12-month period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in order to comply with new federal requirements set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Provider responses are due no later than June 19, 2026. Failure to complete and submit this survey by the due date may impact future eligibility for payments under the Public Provider GEMT Intergovernmental Transfer (PP-GEMT IGT) program and GEMT Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) program payment increases.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1705](#) (Chapter 544, Statutes of 2019), DHCS established the PP-GEMT IGT Program to provide supplemental Medi-Cal payments to eligible public GEMT providers. Similarly, under [Senate Bill \(SB\) 523](#) (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2017), DHCS established the GEMT QAF program to provide supplemental Medi-Cal payments to eligible private GEMT providers. Proposition 35 (November 5, 2024, General Election) allocated funding to DHCS to implement additional GEMT payment increase.

[Section 1902\(a\)\(30\)\(A\) of the Social Security Act \(the Act\)](#) requires Medicaid payments to be “consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available under the plan at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area.”

As part of the CMS review of pending GEMT State Plan Amendments (SPAs) [25-0002](#), [25-0003-A](#) and [25-0030](#) in 2025, CMS issued Requests for Additional Information (RAI) requiring DHCS to demonstrate that proposed GEMT supplemental payments comply with the requirements in Section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act for efficiency and economy.



CMS specifically requested that DHCS provide an ACR based on provider-specific payment data, along with supporting documentation.

Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, DHCS is authorized to implement the PP-GEMT and GEMT QAF increases, without taking regulatory action pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 14105.94(h) and 14129.5. Therefore, this policy letter has the full force of California law.

POLICY:

To comply with CMS requirements, DHCS is mandating all GEMT providers, including public and private entities, to submit commercial fee/rate information for the top five commercial payers based on volume for GEMT procedure codes A0427, A0429, A0433, A0225, and A0434 during the 12-month period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Responses are due no later than June 19, 2026. Failure to complete this survey by the due date may impact future eligibility for payments under the PP-GEMT IGT program and GEMT QAF program payment increases.

Volume ranking should be based on utilization counts for services rendered in California, as the purpose is to identify the ACR for these procedure codes in California. A copy of the GEMT ACR provider survey is enclosed and available on the DHCS website. Please refer to the Instructions Tab in the survey for detailed instructions on completing the Commercial Data Tab template and attestation.

All third-party payer data submissions will be kept confidential to the maximum extent permitted by law and will only be used for rate development purposes. Data reports submitted by providers may be shared by the Department with other federal and state agencies pursuant to applicable laws.

Upon specific request, portions of submissions may be treated as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Providers that believe any portion of their submission is confidential, proprietary, or is subject to privilege under California law must clearly identify those specific portions at the time of submission and provide an additional attestation supporting that designation and, if applicable, explain how the information satisfies the legal criteria for any privileges asserted. DHCS cannot guarantee nondisclosure if the information is requested under the California Public Records Act (PRA) or in litigation.

Please submit the completed survey and any questions to the DHCS GEMT ACR inbox: GEMTACR@dhcs.ca.gov with the subject line: "GEMT ACR Provider <NPI>" no later than June 19, 2026.

Sincerely,

Aditya Voleti, Division Chief

Provider Rates Division

Department of Health Care Services

Enclosed: GEMT ACR Provider Survey