



**Contra  
Costa  
County**

To: Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors  
From: Lewis T. Broschard III, Chief, Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
Date: March 10, 2020

Subject: GEMT QAF Payment to California Department of Health Care Services CY 2019 Q4

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**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Auditor-Controller, on behalf of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, to make a payment to the State of California Department of Health Care Services in the amount of \$521,008.95 for the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Quality Assurance Fee for ambulance transports provided by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District in the months of October, November, and December (Quarter 4) of 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) / Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) program increases the historic base rate of Medi-Cal reimbursement by \$220.80 per transport. The GEMT/QAF program, therefore, increases the per transport reimbursement from the historic base rate of \$118.20 to \$339.00.

To fund this program, the State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) began assessing all transport providers within the State of California a fee of \$25.23 per transport effective July 1, 2018. The fee was increased to \$26.07 for payments due on or after July 1, 2019. The increased fee was approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD  
COMMITTEE

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Action of Board On: **03/10/2020** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, Director  
Candace Andersen, Director  
Diane Burgis, Director  
Karen Mitchoff, Director  
Federal D. Glover, Director

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 10, 2020

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Contact: Jackie Lorrekovich, Chief  
Admin Svcs (925) 941-3300

By: June McHuen, Deputy

cc:

Services (CMS) on September 6, 2019. The District received the attached invoice from DHCS on February 13, 2020.

### FISCAL IMPACT: (CONT'D)

The fiscal impact will be revenue generating for the District due to the significant number of Medi-Cal transports within the District's ambulance operating area. Medi-Cal is the second highest payer type (second to Medicare). The net revenue the District receives will be calculated by multiplying the \$220.80 per transport uplift for Medi-Cal fee-for-service and Medi-Cal managed care transports less the \$26.07 QAF the District is required to pay on all transports.

The net revenue estimate (uplift less QAF) for the District for 2019 is approximately \$2 million under the current funding and fee parameters.

### BACKGROUND:

CMS approved State Plan Amendment (SPA) 18-004 authorizing the GEMT/QAF program in March 2019. The Quality Assurance Fee (QAF) is an add-on fee used to increase Medi-Cal funding. Essentially, emergency medical transportation providers in California must pay this fee on all transports, and in return, providers will receive an uplift that increases the Medi-Cal reimbursement base rate for Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care recipients.

CMS approved SPA 19-0020 in September 2019. SPA 19-0200 increased the QAF from \$25.23 per transport to \$26.07 per transport on all payments due July 1, 2019, and thereafter.

This request is for calendar year 2019 quarter four (4) fees (for October-December 2019 transports). The payment is due on or before April 1, 2020. State program representatives indicated there would be no exceptions and late fees may be assessed by the State for payments not received by the due date.

### CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The QAF payment is mandatory for all providers (public and private) within the State. If not paid, the State can assess late payment penalties and withhold provider payments for ambulance services provided to Medi-Cal recipients.

### ATTACHMENTS

2019 Q4 GEMT QAF Invoice