

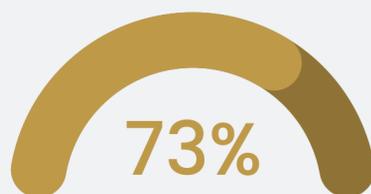


At a Glance

Background



In 2019, there were approximately **2.8 million** EGMT transports in CA, operated by over 700 public and private ambulance service providers.



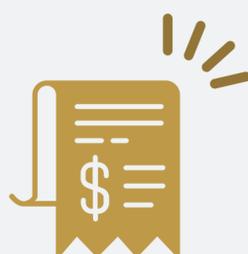
A 2018 analysis of large employer claims found that **73%** of EGMT transports in CA included an out-of-network charge.

Bill Summary



AB 2709 requires health care service plans or health insurance policies to reduce balance billing for out-of-network **emergency ground medical transport (EGMT)** providers in California. An enrollee or member who receives coverage for services from a non-contracting ground ambulance provider would not be required to pay more than the same cost-sharing amount required for services from a contracting ground ambulance provider. The bill would also prohibit non-contracting ground ambulance providers from billing a higher amount. In addition, AB 2709 would limit plan exposure to the greater of the **Average Contracted Rate (ACR)** or **125% of Medicare**.

Policy Context



A "**surprise medical bill**" is a bill from an out-of-network provider or facility that was not expected by the patient or that came from an out-of-network provider not chosen by the patient.



Current CA state law protects against surprise billing by individual doctors that are not chosen by consumers but are out-of-network. The law **does not apply** to out-of-network EGMT services.

Benefit Coverage, Utilization, & Cost Impacts

Benefit coverage **would not increase** due to AB 2709. However, prices paid by health plans, insurers, and consumers for out-of-network EGMT services would change.

Health plans and insurers will pay an additional **\$910** per unit, while enrollees would see a **\$970** decrease due to a **\$230** reduction in cost sharing and a **\$740** reduction in balance billed charges.



CHBRP projects **no estimated impact to utilization** of EGMT services due to AB 2709.



AB 2709 would increase total net annual expenditures by **\$4,711,000** or **0.003%** due to a 0.037% change for total health insurance premiums paid by employers and enrollees.

Insurance Subject to the Mandate



Enrollees in **DMHC-regulated** plans with EMS coverage



Enrollees in **CDI-regulated** policies with EMS coverage



Beneficiaries of **Medi-Cal Managed Care** plans