

State of California
Department of Industrial Relations
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION



**Order of the Administrative Director of the
Division of Workers' Compensation
(Additional OMFS Update for Ambulance Fee Schedule - Effective January 1, 2018)**

On December 12, 2017, pursuant to Labor Code section 5307.1(g)(1),(2), the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation issued an order that title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9789.70, pertaining to Ambulance Services portion of the Official Medical Fee Schedule, be adjusted to conform to the 2018 changes to the Medicare payment system. Thereafter, on February 14, 2018, CMS issued an updated public use file which implements legislative provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 for three temporary add-on provisions. This Order adopts this update to conform to changes to Medicare's ambulance services payment system, effective January 1, 2018.

The three temporary add-on provisions are as follows:

- Section 50203 extended payment provisions of previous legislation including the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011, the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010, the Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA).
- Section 50203(a)(1) extended the provision increasing Ambulance Fee Schedule amounts by 2% for services originating in urban areas (as defined by the ZIP Code of the point of pickup) and by 3% for services originating in rural areas (as defined by the ZIP Code of the point of pickup). This provision is effective through December 31, 2022.
- Section 50203(a)(2) extended the provision relating to payment for ground ambulance services that increased the base rate for transports originating in an area that is within the lowest 25th percentile of all rural areas arrayed by population density (known as the "super rural" bonus). This provision is effective through December 31, 2022.

The Administrative Director incorporates by reference the following updated Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) files from the CMS website:

The CY 2018 Ambulance Fee Schedule (AFS) File (CY 2018 File - Updated 02/14/18 [ZIP, 70KB]), which includes the following electronic files:

2018-AFS-PUF.zip

1. afs2018_puf_v2_003.xls

2. afs2018_puf_v2_003.txt

The CMS description of the Data Elements of the AFS Data file is attached to this Order, excluding references to air ambulance pursuant 8CCR 9789.70(b).

This update applies to services rendered on or after January 1, 2018.

The Order dated December 12, 2017 remains in effect for services on or after January 1, 2018, except as modified by this Order.

The effective date of the new rates is for ambulance services rendered on or after January 1, 2018. This Order and the regulations shall be published on the website of the [Division of Workers' Compensation](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/OMFS9904.htm): <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/OMFS9904.htm>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 28, 2018

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
GEORGE P. PARISOTTO
Administrative Director of the
Division of Workers' Compensation