

# Coastal Valleys EMS Agency

Serving Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties



Date: February 25, 2010  
To: EMS Provider Agencies and Personnel  
From: Bryan Cleaver, Regional EMS Administrator  
Subject: Proposed Increases to EMS Fees

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on proposed changes to existing fees and new fees to be charged by the Coastal Valleys EMS Agency. This information is consistent with that which has been shared with system stakeholders during the past year at various EMS meetings, e.g. Emergency Medical Care Committee, Medical Advisory Committee, and County Fire Chiefs Association.

During the past year, a cost-based analysis and review of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency's existing fees and workload was conducted. The analysis was based on the cost to provide the service, which includes direct and indirect labor, services and supplies, administration, and countywide (A.87) charges. Based on the findings of that analysis, revisions to existing fees and creation of new fees will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for consideration on March 16, 2010.

California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16951 et seq. and California Health and Safety Code Section 1797 et seq. provide the authority for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies to charge fees for selected services. Based on a thorough cost analysis of EMS Agency staffing, supplies, and scope of work for services provided, new fees and increases to existing fees have been proposed. Staff identified several services where fees are permitted but had not been established. EMS fees have not been increased since FY 02-03. If proposed fees are not approved EMS will lose an estimated \$108,000.00 in new revenue for FY 09-10; plus an estimated loss of \$146,100 in increased revenues for FY 10-11.

## **Proposed New Emergency Medical Services Fees**

**STEMI Receiving Center Authorization**– The EMS Agency will authorize and oversee hospitals as STEMI (S.T. elevation, myocardial infarction) receiving centers. These hospitals will be the primary receiving facilities for patients suspected of experiencing acute myocardial infarction (heart attack). It is expected that four hospitals will be designated as STEMI Receiving Centers. The total program cost is \$60,000 and is divided among the Authorized STEMI Centers in the region and pro-rated by patient volume.

**E.M.S. Receiving Hospital Authorization (\$8,000)** – The EMS Agency will authorize and oversee hospitals as EMS Receiving Hospitals for patients transported from the field by ambulance. It is expected that six hospitals will be designated as EMS Receiving Hospitals. (Note: this fee does not apply to hospitals authorized as EMS Base Hospitals.) The proposed fee of \$8,000 per facility will cover 100% of the EMS Agency's cost for this program. If the proposed fee is not approved the service will be provided with no fees charged. This will result in the loss of \$48,000 in revenue.

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**Revisions to Existing Emergency Medical Services Fees (effective July 1, 2010)**

**E.M.T. Certification/Recertification (\$80)** – (renames EMT-1 to EMT and consolidates Initial Certification and Recertification into single fee) This fee provides for the issuance of an EMT certification card. It is expected that 575 applications will be received per fiscal year at a proposed revised fee of \$80. This revised fee recovers 87% of cost. The remaining 13% of cost is supported by State Emergency Medical Services Funding (SB12/612) discretionary revenue. If the proposed fee is not approved the mandated service will continue to be provided at the existing \$25 fee. This will result in decreased numbers of EMS certifications processed and a delay in getting certified EMTs in the field and working and a loss of \$29,875 in revenue.

**EMT- Advanced Certification/Recertification (\$80)** – (Renames EMT-II Certification and consolidates EMT-II Initial Certification and EMT-II Recertification). The State has revised existing regulations for EMT-IIs. These changes become effective July 1, 2010, wherein EMT-IIs are now redefined as EMT-Advanced. The EMS Agency will be responsible for the issuance of EMT-Advanced Certifications based on verification of accreditation or certification eligibility. In anticipation of the new certification regulations, the EMS Agency proposes establishing a fee of \$80 expected to cover 87% of cost, with the remaining 13% of cost supported by State Emergency Medical Services Funding (SB12/612) discretionary revenue. It is expected that 15 applications will be received per fiscal year. If the proposed fee is not approved the mandated service will continue to be provided with no fees charged. This will result in the loss of \$1200 in revenue.

**Paramedic Initial Accreditation (\$200)** - (renames EMT-Paramedic Accreditation) This fee provides for the issuance of an accreditation card and is supported by State law. It is expected that 20 applications will be processed per fiscal year. The requested fee of \$200 recovers 96% of cost. The remaining 4% of cost is supported by State Emergency Medical Services Funding (SB12/612) discretionary revenue. If the proposed fee is not approved the mandated service will continue to be provided at the existing \$100 fee. This will result the loss of \$2000 in revenue.

**Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Certification (\$80)** (consolidates MICN Initial Certification and MICN Recertification) This fee provides for the issuance of an MICN certification card. It is expected that 20 applications will be processed per fiscal year. The proposed fee of \$80 recovers 97% of cost. The remaining 3% of cost is supported by State Emergency Medical Services Funding (SB12/612) discretionary revenue. If the proposed fee is not approved the mandated service will continue to be provided at the existing \$25 fee. This will result in the loss of \$800 in revenue.

**Replacement Cards (\$20)** - provides for the replacement of a lost, stolen or otherwise damaged certification or accreditation card. It is expected that 15 requests may be received per fiscal year. This fee of \$20 recovers 70% of cost with the remaining 30% supported by State Emergency Medical Services Funding (SB12/612) discretionary revenue. If the proposed fee is not approved the mandated service will continue to be provided at the existing \$5 fee. This will result in the loss of \$225 in revenue.

**Proposed New Emergency Medical Services Fees (effective July 1, 2010)**

EMT and EMT - Advanced State Initial Fee (\$75) - Revised State regulations specify that a local EMS Agency shall, in addition to local fees, collect fees in an amount of \$75 for the initial certification of EMT and EMT - Advanced personnel. This additional fee is paid by the local EMS Agency to the State EMS Authority for each individual certified by the local EMS Agency. The purpose of this new State fee is to establish and maintain a state registry database of EMTs within California. Failure to approve this new fee will result in the EMS Agency's failure to comply with State regulations and will result in the loss of the Agency's authority to certify and recertify EMT personnel. The collection and payment of this part of the fee to the State represents no net cost to the County.

EMT and EMT - Advanced State Recertification Fee (\$37) - Revised State regulations specify that a local EMS Agency shall, in addition to local fees, collect fees in an amount of \$37 for the recertification of EMT and EMT - Advanced personnel. This additional fee is paid by the local EMS Agency to the State EMS Authority for each individual certified or recertified by the local EMS Agency. The purpose of this new State fee is to establish and maintain a state registry database of EMTs within California. Failure to approve this new fee will result in the EMS Agency's failure to comply with State regulations and will result in the loss of the Agency's authority to certify and recertify EMT personnel. The collection and payment of this part of the fee to the State represents no net cost to the County.

First Responder Certification (\$80) – The EMS Agency will issue First Responder Certifications to those individuals requesting such certification based on verification of accreditation or certification eligibility. (Note: At this time First Responder “Certification” by the EMS Agency is optional and not required for first responder personnel.) As specified in State regulation, the EMS Agency may establish a fee sufficient to cover the reasonable cost of the certification. It is expected that 50 applications for First Responder Certification may be received per fiscal year. The proposed fee of \$80 recovers 97% of cost, with the remaining 3% of cost supported by State Emergency Medical Services Funding (SB12/612) discretionary revenue. If the proposed fee is not approved the service will be provided with no fees charged. This will result in the loss of \$4,000 in revenue.