



34. Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Funding

Legislative Issues

Board Strategic Priority:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

Issue:

Secure a sustained source of funding to support emergency medical services and trauma care.

Legislative Platform:

1. Support legislation or an initiative which would create or designate new funding for uncompensated emergency, trauma services, and on-call coverage.
2. Support legislative efforts and/or an initiative to increase funding for hospital emergency rooms and trauma centers, County emergency medical services systems and agencies.
3. Oppose the redirection of any existing indigent care funding from public hospitals to compensate community physicians for uncompensated emergency care.
4. Oppose legislation which would increase the administrative burden of managing the distribution of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Maddy funds, or would change the distribution methodology to redirect funds from local EMS agencies and public hospitals.

Background:

Despite the recent expansion of health care coverage, hospitals throughout the State provide a significant volume of emergency care to patients who do not have third-party insurance coverage. The financial impact is often greater on designated trauma centers. Over 50% of hospital emergency rooms operate at a net operating loss due to the significant volume of uncompensated care. During the past several years, there have been multiple legislative efforts to restructure existing indigent care funding programs (such as Proposition 99 and the Emergency Medical Services Maddy funds) to redirect existing funds to reimburse private community physicians for providing uncompensated emergency care, thereby reducing available funding to local EMS agencies and public hospitals such as San Joaquin General Hospital. The County seeks to oppose those efforts and advocates for a new, dedicated funding for uncompensated care in emergency departments.

Health Care Services Agency/Emergency Medical Services

CONTACT: Greg Diederich, HCSA Director; gdiederich@sjgh.org; 209.468.7031

CONTACT: Dan Burch, EMS Administrator; dburch@sjgov.org; 209.468.6818