

- In 2017 & 2018, AHCCCS and tribal partners engaged in conversations to re-evaluate the ground emergency transportation fee schedule. Prior to October 2018, there were no specific ground emergency transportation rates for IHS/638 providers. In October 2018, state plan amendment language was submitted to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval for a new rate methodology. On March 18, 2019, CMS approved the state plan language with the effective date of October 1, 2018.
- **Current State Plan Language:**
 - o Effective October 1, 2018, rates for ground ambulance services provided by an IHS provider or a tribally owned or operated provider with a section 638 agreement that does not have a Certificate of Necessity (CON) issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), will be the higher of:
 - The weighted average of the provider-specific rates as set by ADHS that are in effect on July 1 for each provider that has been issued a CON weighted by utilization of each ground transportation service code derived from both paid claims and encounters for the 12 months ending September 30.
 - The weighted average of the provider-specific rates as set by ADHS that are in effect on July 1 for each provider that has been issued a CON weighted by utilization of each ground transportation service code derived from only paid claims for the 12 months ending September 30.
 - o The higher of the two methodologies will then be multiplied by 68.59 percent to establish the AHCCCS rate for each ambulance service.
- Based on the previous three years, the Advanced Life Support (ALS) rate compared to the Basic Life Support (BLS) has been 107.5 percent of the basic life support rate.
- Under the current state plan language, the estimated rate calculation for ALS and BLS are below:

Service	Method	Estimated Rate for 10.1.21
ALS	Claims & Encounters	\$832.19
ALS	Claims Only	\$920.55
BLS	Claims & Encounters	\$735.58
BLS	Claims Only	\$941.30

- Using the current state plan language, ALS would be set at \$920.55 while BLS would be set at \$941.30.
- As a result, **the BLS rate would exceed the ALS rate.** In response to this concern, AHCCCS is proposing the following amendment to the current state plan language:
 - o *The higher of the two methodologies will then be multiplied by 68.59 percent to establish the AHCCCS rate for each ambulance service. If the methodology produces a rate for the Basic Life Support (BLS) that exceeds the Advanced Life Support (ALS) rate, the ALS rate shall be set at 107.5 percent of the calculated BLS rate.*
- With this change, the BLS rate would be calculated \$941.30 but the ALS rate would be set at \$1,011.90 since the prior method calculated an ALS rate lower than the BLS calculated rate.