

PROVEN RESULTS



Pricey Ride: Repricing a California Ambulance Bill

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

How WellRithms protected a patient who received an ambulance ride from balanced billing.

Billed Charges	\$1,911
WellRithms Reductions	\$899
Final Payment	\$1,013



BACKGROUND

A **pressing issue** in the realm of emergency medical services is the excessive billing practices that patients routinely encounter. A case highlighting this issue involved a group health plan member in Anaheim, California who was blindsided by a \$1,911 bill for a four-mile ambulance ride. This incident is a stark illustration of the broader, systemic challenges patients face due to the lack of transparency and consistency in emergency transportation costs. WellRithms intervened with our advanced repricing technology to ensure that the patient's bill was adjusted to reflect a fair and justified amount.

RESULTS

The **initial invoice** for the ambulance service detailed a \$1,832 base charge for the Advanced Life Support (ALS) Level 1 ambulance and an additional \$79.08 for the four-mile transportation. The bill was meticulously analyzed using the WellRithms Sustainable Claim Pricing (SCP) System, which led to significant reductions:

- ALS Level 1 Ambulance Base rate was reduced from \$1,832 to a validated \$951.
- The original \$79 mileage charge was recalculated to \$62.

Dr. Jesse Nguyen, M.D., Associate Medical Director at WellRithms, underscored the importance of the SCP approach, stating, "Our method is instrumental in addressing overbilling. By benchmarking charges against comprehensive data and established industry standards, we ensure equitable billing. The defensibility of our data-driven strategy is crucial, providing incontrovertible evidence that bolsters our advocacy for fair pricing during provider negotiations."

WellRithms repricing technique incorporates standard payments, geographical and state-specific financial considerations, and inflationary adjustments, offering a true reflection of the complex economic terrain that shapes healthcare expenses. Baseline payment rates are derived from the analysis of actual payments accepted for ambulance services. Utilizing payment data from commercial insurers, private payers, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guarantees that the recalibrated charges are not only equitable but also legally defensible.

