

# Orange County Ground Emergency Ambulance Services

Emergency Medical Care  
Committee  
2015

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## AAOC Membership

- AmeriCare Ambulance Service
- Care Ambulance Service
- Doctor's Ambulance Service
- Emergency Ambulance Service
- MedCoast Ambulance Service
- Premier Ambulance Service
- Schaefer Ambulance Service
- Shoreline Ambulance Service



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Complete Disclosure



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Current Board Policy

- OC annual ambulance rate adjustments based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) for "All Items" in Los Angeles/Riverside/OC
- Adjacent Counties use "Medical" and "Transportation" CPIs
- Proposed adjusted rates forwarded to Board of Supervisors for approval

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Who do these rates apply to?

- Private ambulance companies providing emergency (9-1-1) transport services:
  - Primary Private providers are: Care Ambulance, Doctor's Ambulance and Emergency Ambulance
  - 26 other licensed private ambulance companies when providing 9-1-1 services
  - Many companies index I.F.T. rates to County rates
- Cities / Fire Departments providing Emergency (9-1-1) transport services:
  - City of Huntington Beach
  - City of La Habra
  - City of Newport Beach
  - City of Orange
  - City of San Clemente
  - City of Westminster

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is the Net Effect of Rate Increase

#### BLS Rates

Staff recommendation: 2.4 % increase.  
Gross BLS Base Rate increase: \$17.55  
Net increase: approx. \$3.16 (Actual Cash)

#### ALS Rates

Staff recommendation: 2.4%  
Gross ALS Rate increase: \$9.30  
Net increase: approx. \$1.67 (Actual Cash)  
But...Providers must pay OCFA an added \$6.59

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## AAOC Request

Support the recommended increases

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Who Pays the Increase?

- Commercial insurance companies - that already pay higher fees in all other counties. Nationally, ambulance companies represent less than **1%** of insurance company spending.
- This cost shift is by Federal design.
- By not billing at the higher rates, you are forcing your local ambulance providers and fire departments to subsidize these commercial insurance companies.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

But we **MUST** address  
the On-Coming Train



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## On-Coming Trains

- **Up to 22% increase in minimum wage on January 1, 2016 – Calif. SB3**
- Decrease of patients with private insurance; increase of patients on lower-paying MediCal / CalOptima
- Significant cost increase to 9-1-1 providers (multi-millions) for new HCA EOA contracts
- Increasing gap between ALS cost recovery fees and actual net rate increase
- Funding for emergency ambulance transport of indigent patients - Lomita

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Recommendations

- Recommend approval of 2.4% increase in BLS rates and ALS reimbursement consistent with Board policy.
- Recommend OC EMS Staff meet with AAOC and OCFA representatives to address impacts of:
  1. significant increase to minimum wage
  2. increases in MediCal / CalOptima populations
  3. significant increase in EOA contract costs
  4. OCFA ALS cost recovery models
  5. Indigent 9-1-1 transports
- Report back to BOS by end of October 2015 with suggested changes to rate setting methodologies

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---