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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

August 16, 2022

To: EMS DISTRIBUTION - ALL

From: Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN
EMS Director

Subject: **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Proposed Ground Emergency Ambulance Rate Adjustment**

This memo is to notify the public of a proposed adjustment in the maximum allowable 9-1-1 emergency ambulance rate for Basic Life Support (BLS) services chargeable to a patient transported at the request of a public safety employee by Orange County ambulance service providers. The proposed adjustment matches the Los Angeles County General Public Ambulance Rates and consolidates the oxygen and medical supply charges into the Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate.

Per the ambulance ordinance, the Board has sole authority to adjust the maximum ambulance rates. Following Board Resolution 17-094, Item No. 29 automated annual adjustments were applied to account for the mandated minimum wage increases and CPI factors up to January 1, 2022. There are no longer automated adjustments scheduled.

The primary drivers behind this proposal include but are not limited to a longstanding EMS retention and recruitment challenge, difficulty-matching workers with the right employers and the need for better pay and working conditions. Of significance, the proposed increase in base rate will include charges for oxygen and Medicare, Medi-Cal and private insurance carriers to be listed as separate line-item charges, no longer allows expendable medical supplies as those charges. The proposed increase will NOT be passed onto the Medicare and Medi-Cal patients.

Type of Charge	Basis of Charge	PROPOSED Rates	CURRENT Rates
9-1-1 Emergency BLS Base Rate	Applicable for urgent response at the request of public safety	\$1,832.27	\$1,516.97 ¹
Mileage	Per patient mile or fraction thereof	\$19.05	\$19.77
Standby	Per 15 minutes, after the first 15 minutes and any fraction thereof	\$129.00	\$47.50

¹Includes Base Rate, Oxygen & Expendable Medical Supplies

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The 2022 Proposed Ground Emergency Ambulance Service Rates Adjustment is posted for a 50-day public comment review period (8/18/22 to 9/30/2022 at 3:00 PM). Please review the adjustment and submit comments by [completing the public comment form](#). You may also access the comment form on your mobile device by scanning the QR code below.



Comments received prior to the meeting will be provided to the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) at the next scheduled meeting on October 14, 2022. You are welcome to attend the meeting and address this agenda item.

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