

AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS GROUND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT



I. APPLICATION:

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedure and methodology to be utilized by the Health Care Agency Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) for an annual review and adjustment of the maximum allowable ground emergency ambulance rates chargeable to a patient transported at the request of a public safety employee, by Orange County ambulance service providers.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- A. Annual ambulance rate adjustments are based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). OCEMS will utilize data from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) to determine the percentage change in the annual "all Items" CPI for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area from the prior year and calculate any proposed rate change.
- B. The calculated rates will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval of an adjustment of the maximum allowable rates.

Rates shall be calculated for the following categories only:

- Emergency Base Rate applicable for ambulance response at the request of a public safety employee
- Expendable Medical Supplies maximum per response or fair market value, whichever is the least amount
- Oxygen (includes mask or cannula)* applicable when administered
- Mileage per patient mile or fraction thereof
- Standby Time per 15 minutes after the first 15 minutes and any fraction thereof

The expendable medical supply, oxygen, mileage, and standby time charges shall be adjusted utilizing the same methodology.

*Oxygen rate in Orange County includes mask or cannula and is applicable only when administered to a patient.

Using the same methodology, OCEMS will calculate the maximum ALS Paramedic Assessment and Transportation fee for the Orange County Fire Authority, (excepting San Clemente, Westminster, and Buena Park) providing the resulting rate does not exceed OCFA's actual cost of ALS service.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate – the maximum charge to a patient for ALS service

Effective Date: July, 2012



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C. OCEMS shall:

- Notify Orange County EMS licensed ambulance service providers, City Managers and Fire Chiefs of the maximum allowable rates to be submitted to the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC). Notification shall be made a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the submission to the EMCC.
- Agendize the calculated rate adjustment for the Emergency Medical Care Committee to review and comment at its next regular meeting.
- Submit the calculated rate adjustment and the comments of the EMCC, the affected cities, ambulance provider and fire department, if any, to the HCA Director for forwarding to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- D. Board of Supervisors Actions/Notification and Effective Date:

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, a rate change shall be effective July 1 of each year. OCEMS licensed ambulance service providers, contract city managers, and fire chiefs shall be notified in writing of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, the resolution number, and the effective date.

Approved:

OCEMS Medical Director

OCEMS Administrator

Effective Date: July, 2012

Effective Date:

07/2012

Reviewed Date(s):

07/2012

Original Date:

01/1989