



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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*To ensure timely,
compassionate, and quality
emergency and disaster
medical services*



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

June 5, 2013

TO: Fire Chief, All 9-1-1 Paramedic Provider Agencies
CEO, Private Provider Agencies

FROM: Cathy Chidester 
Director

**SUBJECT: GENERAL PUBLIC AMBULANCE RATES
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014**

Attached are the allowable maximum rates chargeable to the general public as of July 1, 2013, as per Section 7.16.340, Modification of Rates, of the County Ordinance (Attachment I).

The rate increase of 2.30% is based on an average of the change in two portions of the Consumer Price Index (CPI): the Transportation portion and the Medical portion. The CPI used was the Urban Consumers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the twelve-month period ending February 28, 2013. All results have been rounded to the nearest \$0.25.

Transportation services provided on or after July 1, 2013 shall be billed according to the attached Rate Schedule.

If you have any questions, please call John Telmos, Prehospital Programs Manager at (562) 347-1677.

CC:jt
Exhibit

06-04a

cc: Contracts and Grants Division
County Counsel
Fiscal Management

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
GENERAL PUBLIC AMBULANCE RATES
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013**

Section 7.16.280 Rate Schedule For Ambulances

A. An ambulance operator shall charge no more than the following rates for one patient:

	Effective July 1, 2013
1. Response to call with equipment and personnel at an advanced life support (ALS) level,	\$ 1444.75
2. Response to call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level,	\$ 1033.50
3. Code 3 used during response or transport, per incident,	\$ 130.75
4. Code 2 used during response or transport per incident,	\$ 51.50
5. Mileage Rate. Each mile or fraction thereof,	\$ 19.00
6. Waiting Time. For each 15-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 15 minutes of waiting time at the request of the person hiring the ambulance	\$ 51.50
7. Standby Time. The base rate for the prescribed level of service and, in addition, for each 15-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 15 minutes of standby time,	\$ 49.25

B. This section does not apply to a contract between the ambulance operator and the County where different rates or payment mechanisms are specified.

Section 7.16.310 Special Charges

A. An ambulance operator shall charge no more than the following rates for special ancillary services:

1. Request for service after 7:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. of the next day will be subject to an additional maximum charge of	\$ 84.75
2. Persons requiring oxygen shall be subject to an additional maximum charge per tank or fraction thereof, of	\$ 65.75
3. Backboard, splints, KED	\$ 51.25
4. Traction splints	\$ 92.75

5.	Transport non-company staff medical personnel - first one-half hour	\$ 32.75
6.	Neonatal transport	\$ 195.50
7.	Ice packs	\$ 27.25
8.	Bandages, dressings	\$ 27.25
9.	Oxygen cannula/mask	\$ 27.25
10.	Cervical collar	\$ 46.00
11.	Obstetrical kit	\$ 50.25
12.	Burn kit	\$ 50.25
13.	Nurse critical care transport - per hour	\$ 233.25
14.	Volume ventilator	\$ 176.00
15.	Respiratory therapist for the first three hours, and \$117.25 per hour after the first three hours	\$ 265.75
16.	Pulse oximeter	\$ 88.75
17.	Infusion pump (per line)	\$ 88.75
18.	Automated external defibrillator (AED)	\$ 88.75
19.	Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)	\$ 88.75
20.	Where other special services are requested or needed by any patient or authorized representative thereof, a reasonable charge commensurate with the cost of furnishing such special service may be made, provided that the ambulance operator shall file with the Director of the Department of Health Services a schedule of each special service proposed and the charge therefore, which charge shall be effective unless modified, restricted, or denied by the Director of the Department of Health Services. Special services are defined as services provided to a patient that are unique and individual to a specific patient's needs, and are performed on a limited basis.	

Charges for special services provided to patients that are new services, but will become an industry standard, must be reviewed and a rate commensurate with the service developed prior to ambulance operators charging such rate to the general public. Such rates shall not be charged to patients until approved by the board of Supervisors.

- B. This section does not apply to a contract between an ambulance operator and the county where different rates or payment mechanisms are specified.

Section 7.16.340 Modification of Rates.

The maximum rates chargeable to the general public as set forth in Sections 7.16.280 and 7.16.310 of this chapter shall be adjusted effective July 1, 1992, and on July 1st of each year thereafter, to reflect changes in the value of the dollar. For each of the one year periods respectively beginning July 1, 1992 and July 1, 1993 such adjustments shall be made by multiplying the base amounts by the percentage change in the transportation portion of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February. Beginning July 1, 1994, and on each July 1 thereafter, such adjustments shall be determined by multiplying the base amounts by the average of the percentage changes of the transportation portion and of the medical portion of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February. The result so determined shall be rounded to nearest \$0.25 and added or subtracted, as appropriate, to the rate. The Director of the Department of Health Services shall initiate implementation of these rate changes by notifying in writing each licensed private ambulance operator in Los Angeles County thereof, and any other individual or agency requesting such notification from the Director. Such notice shall be sent by first class mail no later than June 15 of the prior rate period.

7.16.341 Periodic Base Rate Review.

The maximum base rates for ALS and BLS services, as reflected in Section 7.16.280, shall be reviewed in accordance with the following procedures, and adjusted, if appropriate, effective first on January 1, 2005, and later, also if appropriate, on January 1 of every other year thereafter.

On or about July 1 of the year prior to the January 1 adjustment date, the Director of the Department of Health Services shall review the ALS and BLS ambulance rates of all other counties in California to determine the average rates for these services in effect for these counties as of the review date. If the Los Angeles County rates are equal to or above average, no adjustment to the Los Angeles County Code rates will be made under this provision. If one or both of the Los Angeles County rates are less than the average, then an appropriate adjustment to the rate or rates shall be made to bring it (them) to the average. Any required adjustment shall be rounded to the nearest \$0.25.

The Director of the Department of Health Services shall initiate implementation of these rate adjustments by notifying in writing each licensed private ambulance operator in Los Angeles County thereof, and any other individual or agency who has requested such notification from the Director. Such notice shall be sent by first class mail no later than December 15 of the prior rate period.

Nothing herein is intended to prevent licensed ambulance operators from demonstrating that ALS and BLS rates in Los Angeles County fail to provide operators with a reasonable rate of return on their investment. A licensed operator at any time may submit to the Director of the Department of Health Services its cost and revenue data, and other pertinent documentation which the Director may require for this purpose.

If this information evidences to the Director's satisfaction that the ALS rate or BLS rate, or both, fail to provide the operator with a reasonable rate of return, the Director shall propose a different base rate structure to the board of Supervisors for consideration.