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
- MedCost 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 DCFRA 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 – Loma

Recommendations

- Recommend approval of 2.4% increase in BLS rates and ALS reimbursement consistent with Board policy.
- Recommend OC EMS Staff meet withAAOC 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