



Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE  
Commissioner of Health

Administration

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April 1, 2011

Alderman Robert Donovan  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
City Hall Room 205  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Donovan:

Pursuant to Milwaukee Codes, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Health to review each year ambulance conveyance rates and fees for equipment and procedures for calls dispatched by the City's Emergency Medical Services-911 dispatch system. The Commissioner of Health is to report these findings and any recommended rate adjustments to the Common Council.

My recommendations for rate adjustments have been based on health related cost indexes specified in section 75-15-14-b. In addition I have consulted with the City Economist, Dennis Yaccarino and reviewed the recommendations that will be set forth in City of Milwaukee Common Council Legislative File Number 101520.

There was a 7.0% increase in the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care from 2009 to 2010.

For residents of the City of Milwaukee, I am recommending that the Basic Life Support (BLS), BLS Emergency rates be increased 7.0%. This would set both the resident BLS and resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates at \$504. In addition, I am recommending that the BLS non-transport fee be increased from \$112 to \$120.

For non-residents both the BLS and non-resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates would be set at \$583.00. When patients receive treatment and are not transported, the BLS non-transport fee be increased from \$160 to \$171.

Whenever a certified ambulance provider provides an advanced life support conveyance under the terms of the Private Provider Interfacility Unit Protocol, my recommendation is that the provider is authorized to charge the same rates as established by the fire department and set forth in 75-17-a-d. I am further proposing that the BLS and ALS ancillary charges and drug rates, which have not been adjusted since 2007, be increased by 22.8% from \$693.28 to \$851.34.

*Think Health. Act Now!*

The mileage rate contains reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. I recommend keeping the current mileage rate at \$14.00 for the upcoming year. Currently, MFD has an agreement to transport bariatric patients. I recommend that the MFD be able to bill at the BLS rate listed above of \$504 for these patients.

If you have further questions or require additional clarifications, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bevan K. Baker', written in a cursive style.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE  
Commissioner of Health

cc: Mark Rohlfing, Fire Chief  
Michael Payne, Deputy Chief  
Jennifer Meyer, Budget and Policy Manager, Sr.  
Rick Zethner, Bell Ambulance  
Jim Baker, Curtis Ambulance  
Linda Wiedmann, MedaCare Ambulance  
Bob Rausch, Paratech Ambulance