



Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Jeanette Kowalik, PHD, MPH, MCHES  
Commissioner of Health

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September 7, 2018

Alderman Terry Witkowski  
Vice Chair, Public Safety & Health Committee  
City Hall Room 205  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Witkowski:

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.

There was a 4% increase in the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care from 2016 to 2017.

For residents of the City of Milwaukee, I am recommending that the Basic Life Support (BLS), BLS Emergency rates be increased 4%. This would set both the resident BLS and resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates at \$681. In addition, I am recommending that the BLS non-transport fee be increased from \$155 to \$161.

For non-residents both the BLS and non-resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates would be set at \$788. When patients receive treatment and are not transported, the BLS non-transport fee should be increased from \$222 to \$231.

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 Section 75-15-15 of the code, which has not been updated since 2014, increase to \$1128.48.

The mileage rate contains reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. It is my recommendation that this year the city continue a 3-year rolling average of the mileage rate, from 2015 – 2017, at \$19.27 per mile.

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 \$788 for these patients.

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

Sincerely,

Jeanette Kowalik, PhD, MPH, MCHES  
Commissioner, Milwaukee Health Department

