

**City
of
Milwaukee**

Health Department

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

March 30, 2010

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.

Attached is information on the health related cost indexes specified in section 75-15-14-b. There was a 6.8% increase in the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care from 2008 to 2009.

For residents of the City of Milwaukee, I am recommending that the Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency rates be increased 6.8%. This would set both the resident BLS and resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates at \$471.00. Three years ago a treatment without transport fee was added to the ordinance. I am recommending that when patients do receive treatment and are not transported, a \$112.00 BLS non-transport fee will remain in effect.

For non-residents both the BLS and non-resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates would be set at \$545.00. When patients receive treatment and are not transported, a \$160.00 BLS non-transport fee will remain in effect.

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 through d. I am further proposing that the ancillary charges and drug rates set by the fire department be accepted. Until such time that these rates are changed, the current rates established in 2009 shall remain in effect.

Think Health. Act Now!

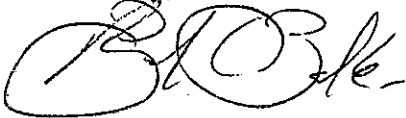
The mileage rate contains reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. The current mileage rate is \$14.00 and it is my recommendation that the mileage rate remain \$14.00.

Currently the MFD has an agreement with the private providers to transport bariatric (extremely heavy or obese) patients which is quite labor intensive. I recommend that the MFD is able to bill at the BLS rate of \$471.00 for these patients. Currently they transport these patients but do not bill BLS for them.

The MFD also provides services to non-resuscitative cardiac arrest patients. I recommend that they are able to bill under BLS for this service. Currently they can bill the private insurance but need the authority to bill Medicare under BLS rates.

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 'B. Baker', written over a circular scribble.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Attachment

cc: Alderman Robert Puente, Chair, Ambulance Service Board
Michael Jones, Acting Fire Chief
Renee Joos, Budget Manager
✓ Jim Owczarski, City Clerk's Office
Rick Zethner, Bell Ambulance
Jim Baker, Curtis Ambulance
Linda Wiedmann, MedaCare Ambulance
Bob Rausch, Paratech Ambulance



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Legislative Reference Bureau

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2010 FEB 23 P 12:29
Ronald D. Leonhardt
City Clerk

MILWAUKEE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Barry J. Zalben
Manager

February 22, 2010

Bevan Baker, Commissioner of Health
841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor

Dear Mr. Baker:

At your request, the Legislative Reference Bureau is providing you with the following information from the medical cost index specified in s. 75-15-14-b of the Milwaukee Code:

Milwaukee Consumer Price Index for medical care - percent increase 2008 to 2009 - 6.8 %.

In addition, provided are the following United States Consumer Price Index data with respect to transportation costs in Milwaukee:

Calendar 2008-2009 % decrease:

Transportation	-9.5
Gasoline	-27.7

Sincerely,

Barry J. Zalben
Legislative Reference Bureau

BJZ/ap
Medical cost index