



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Office of the Commissioner

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May 13, 2016

Alderman Bob 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.

There was a 2.9% increase in the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care from 2014 to 2015.

For residents of the City of Milwaukee, I am recommending that the Basic Life Support (BLS), BLS Emergency rates be increased 2.9%. This would set both the resident BLS and resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates at \$632. In addition, I am recommending that the BLS non-transport fee be increased from \$146 to \$150.

For non-residents both the BLS and non-resident BLS-Emergency conveyance rates would be set at \$732. When patients receive treatment and are not transported, the BLS non-transport fee should be increased from \$208 to \$214.

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 remains at \$1004.63.

The mileage rate contains reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. It is my recommendation that this year the city implement a 3-year rolling average of the mileage rate, from 2013 – 2015, at 19.21 per mile. This would be instead of the CPI 19% reduction which would reduce the rate of mileage reimbursement to \$15.65 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 \$732 for these patients.

If you should have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

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