



Fire Department

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September 25, 2019

Public Safety and Health Committee
Ald. Robert Donovan, Chair
City of Milwaukee Common Council Public Safety and Health Committee
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Number: 190257 An ordinance relating to charges for patient services provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department

Dear Ald. Donovan and Public Safety and Health Committee Members:

This file proposes to amend the ordinance relating to charges for patient services provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department for 2019. Prior to 2018 this was an annual increase typically recommended by the Milwaukee County Association of Fire Chiefs (MCAFC) as a uniform rate change throughout the County based on the Medical Care Commodities and Medical Care Service CPI, however, the EMS Contract with Milwaukee County does not bind the municipalities to all maintain the same fee structure. As a result, for the first time in 2018, all Milwaukee County jurisdictions chose to set their own rate increases and appear to be doing the same for subsequent years.

After lengthy discussion with the Budget Office we are recommending and supporting increases across the board to all service and mileage rates that is slightly more complex than previous years. An annual increase is recommended to keep up with rising costs of EMS Services. The following summarizes the various increases:

- Some rates have been increased to align our ALS and BLS transport costs with State Medicaid and Federal Medicare rates.
- There are a number of items in the ordinance that we simply do not use anymore due to protocol and/or best practice changes. Therefore, in this effort, we are recommending a variety of "bundling" packages for BLS Ancillary charges. This bundling idea allows for fluctuations in the price of supplies which we've been experiencing over the past few years.
- The ALS ancillary and drug charges will require us to amortize certain procedures to better align charges to actual costs, and changes in equipment and supplies per OEM protocol, and materials that are no longer reimbursed by the Milwaukee County stipend. The majority of the drug charges will be increased by 5% to align with increasing costs.

- Increases to Treatment-no-Transfer rates have been approved across the board to better align with initiatives endorsed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). This impacts both ALS and BLS charges.
- Changes were recommended to BLS and ALS treatment and transport rates to reflect the upcoming CMS Emergency Triage, Treat and Transport (ET3) Model and Wisconsin DHS changes. These changes provide for patients to be treated on scene and/or transported to alternative destinations other than an emergency department.

The Milwaukee Fire Department will continue to work with our current billing contractor to validate revenue projections for 2019 and 2020 as it is impacted by these rate increases, however, the projected increase in revenues will not directly correlate to the increases recommended. The City of Milwaukee Fire department provides the majority of its services to Medicaid and Medicare patients and will not realize the increase on most of those services due to set fee structures.

If you have any questions regarding this file and ordinance change please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Rohlfing", written in a cursive style.

MARK ROHLFING
Chief

MR/YR