



**AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS
GROUND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT**

I. AUTHORITY:

Orange County Board of Supervisors, Resolution No. 17-094, Item No.29

II. APPLICATION:

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedure and methodology to be utilized by the Health Care Agency Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) for an annual review and adjustment of the maximum allowable ground emergency ambulance rates chargeable to a patient transported at the request of a public safety employee, by Orange County ambulance service providers.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. Health Care Agency (HCA) is authorized to make annual adjustments to the maximum 9-1-1 emergency basic life support ground ambulance rates effective July 1 of each year. Rates shall be calculated for the following categories only:

- Emergency Base Rate – applicable for ambulance response at the request of a public safety employee
- Mileage – per patient mile or fraction thereof
- Oxygen (includes mask or cannula) - applicable when administered
- Standby Time – per 15 minutes after the first 15 minutes and any fraction thereof
- Expendable Medical Supplies – maximum per response or fair market value, whichever is the least amount

B. 9-1-1 emergency ambulance, basic life support annual ambulance rate adjustments are based on methodologies adopted by the Board of Supervisors that utilize the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and state or federal approved minimum wage adjustments.

IV. FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS

A. Each year, HCA will gather and compare statewide average ambulance provider rates.

B. The county contracted ambulance providers shall include the effect of minimum wage increases in their annual CPA audits as required by the 9-1-1 emergency ambulance transport service agreements. And, forward to OCEMS, the total number of 9-1-1 transports for the prior year.

C. Starting in 2019, OCEMS shall:

1. Utilize the Board approved methodology to determine the annual adjustment to the Maximum 9-1-1 Emergency Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Rate, effective July 1 of each year, that calculates the percent increase or decrease based on the percentage adjustment of State or Federal approved minimum wage adjustments.



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2019-2022 Schedule for California Minimum Wage Rate Adjustments

Date	Minimum Wage for Employers with 26 Employees or More	Percentage Change (Difference / Prior Year)
January 1, 2019	\$12.00/hour	9.1%
January 1, 2020	\$13.00/hour	8.3%
January 1, 2021	\$14.00/hour	7.7%
January 1, 2022	\$15.00/hour	7.1%

2. Utilize the Board approved methodology to utilize data from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) to determine the percentage change in the annual "all Items" CPI for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area from the prior year to determine the adjustment to the mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable medical supply rates.
3. Submit the calculated rate adjustments to the HCA Director for approval.
 - a. If approved by the HCA Director, the rate change shall be effective July 1 of each year. OCEMS licensed ambulance service providers, contract city managers, and fire chiefs shall be notified in writing of the action.
 - b. HCA may seek board approval of any adjustment to the maximum 9-1-1 emergency basic life support ground ambulance rate and/or rates for mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable medical supplies that exceeds the Board approved methodologies.
4. For OCFA maximum ALS paramedic assessment and transport fee, propose annually to OCFA the same percentage change as the maximum emergency BLS rate (normally the CPI rate) but not to exceed OCFA's actual costs for providing ALS services. In accordance with May 11, 2004 Board directive, you must return to Board to adjust OCFA ALS paramedic assessment and transport fee.

Approved:

OCEMS Administrator

Effective Date: 08/07/2017
 Reviewed Date(s): 08/14/2017
 Original Date: 07/1989