

RESOLUTION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OURAY COUNTY

Re: Amendment of Ouray County EMS Fee Schedule

WHEREAS, the Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) provides emergency medical service to the public within Ouray County, and Mutual Aid to other EMS agencies; and

WHEREAS, OCEMS owns several emergency medical vehicles (“ambulances”) that are utilized in medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, OCEMS is authorized by the State of Colorado to charge fees for the provision of emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2005-071 approving an EMS Billing Procedure, which sets forth a fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the fee schedule to cover the cost of service Advance Life Support (ALS) services, and to modify the fee schedule to address the cost of service associated with interceptions for ambulance transport for cross-jurisdictional agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray, Colorado that Resolution 2008-064 be adopted to reflect changes to the EMS Fee Schedule associated with the provision of emergency medical services within Ouray County and other emergency medical services that may be required as illustrated in Exhibit 1, attached.

Adopted this 10th day of November, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

K. Keith Meinert, Chair

Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder

Don Batchelder, Vice Chair

By: _____

Linda Munson-Haley,
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Heidi M. Albritton, Member

Revised EMS Billing Procedure

Effective 1-1-09

Purpose:

This billing procedure is intended to ensure appropriate billing methods in compliance with local, state and federal regulations regarding medical and/or extrication billing for patients who receive emergency medical treatment(s), transportation and/or vehicle extrication services from Ouray County Emergency Medical Services, OC EMS.

Procedure:

1. Ouray County EMS will not and never have withheld emergency medical treatment or transportation due to lack of insurance or inability to pay for services.
2. Patients who legally refuse treatment and/or transportation will not be charged or billed for services.
3. Patients receiving treatment from OC EMS and are handed off to an air ambulance for transport to a medical facility can be subject to reasonable charges and billed for services provided.
4. All patients transported by OC EMS will be charged in accordance with the Rates/Fee Schedule of this policy.
5. Patients eligible for, and participating within, the Medicare program will be charged, billed, and collected from in accordance with the Medicare Fee Schedule, and all rules and regulations therein.
6. A fee for cardiac arrest resuscitation efforts that result in a non-transport may be charged in accordance with the Rates/Fee Schedule of this policy.
7. OC EMS may charge a vehicle extrication fee to be billed to the registered vehicle owner's auto insurance policy in accordance with the Rates/Fee Schedule of this policy.
8. OC EMS will contract with Business Options L.L.C. to provide billing services.

Rates/Fee Schedule:

1. Base Rates: An appropriate base rate will be charged to all patients transported by Ouray County EMS.
 - a. Basic Life Support 1 (\$225.00)
 - Charged to patients who have received assessment, treatment and are handed off to an air ambulance for transportation to a hospital.
 - b. Basic Life Support 2 (\$475.00)
 - Charged to patients who receive assessment, treatment and transportation at the BLS level regardless of the level of responder who is attending to them.
 - This includes BLS supplies utilized in the care and treatment of the patient up to and including oxygen administration and cardiac monitoring.
 - c. Advanced Life Support 1 (\$575.00)
 - Charged to patients who receive assessment, treatment and transportation at the ALS level regardless of the level of responder who is attending to them.
 - This includes BLS and ALS supplies utilized including the establishment of an IV and/or the administration of one or two medications.
 - d. Advanced Life Support 2 (\$775.00)
 - Charged to patients who receive assessment, treatment and transportation at the ALS level regardless of the level of responder who is attending to them...
 - ... and receive three or more medications and/or other ALS procedures such as defibrillation, cardiac pacing, intubation, needle and/or pleural decompression, cricothyrotomy or intra-osseous infusion.

- e. Contracts for special event coverage such as public events, movie and commercial filming medical standbys
 - Rates to be negotiated between OC EMS and the contracting entity or organization.
 - f. Paramedic / Advanced Life Support (ALS) Intercept Services (\$180.00)
 - This fee covers the cost of service for medications and equipment utilized in treating intercept patients that are transported from other EMS providers through OC EMS to the hospital.
2. Mileage: A mileage fee of \$12.00 per mile will be charged for all patients transported by OC EMS to a hospital.
- This fee will not include the mileage from the ambulance station to the patient's location.
 - It will only be charged for the actual mileage from the patient's location to the hospital.
 - A portion of a mile will be rounded down if it is .4 or lower and will be rounded up if it is .5 or higher.
3. Other Charges:
- a. Field Resuscitation efforts resulting in a non-transport of the patient will be billed at the ALS 1 rate (\$575.00).
 - b. Vehicle Extrication Fee (\$500.00)
 - For motor vehicle accidents that require the use of specialized tools such as the Jaws of Life to free an entrapped patient or patients from their damaged vehicle.
 - This fee will be billed to the motor vehicle's registered owner who in turn will submit to his or her auto insurance carrier.
 - OC EMS will accept whatever the insurer remits and will not charge the difference between the billed amount and the payment to the vehicle's owner.
4. OC EMS Membership:
- a. Annually OC EMS conducts a membership drive to raise funds to offset training, equipment and other operating expenses not covered by taxes and funds collected for services rendered.
 - b. This membership drive has four categories:
 - Single member insured
 - Family member insured
 - Single uninsured
 - Family uninsured
 - c. OC EMS accepts whatever the member's insurance remits and the rest of the bill is forgiven resulting in no additional out-of-pocket EMS expenses for the member.