

# Memo

To: Petersburg Borough Assembly Members  
From: Sandy Dixon, Fire/EMS Director  
Date: February 14, 2019  
Re: Resolution, Setting Ambulance Fees

I am requesting the Petersburg Borough update fees for ambulance service. This will allow the Borough to assign a fee for specific call types and mileage.

The last ambulance fee increase was in 2002, when the fee went from \$100 to \$300. Rules for billing have changed and continue to change. We are required to charge for mileage. In the past, I have done a rate survey in various Alaska communities and fees ranged from no fee charged to \$1,000 plus mileage.

I propose the Borough charge ambulance fees that are aligned with the annual Medicare approved reimbursement schedule. Therefore, the fee schedule would be fluid. As the Medicare fee schedule changes, so would our fees.

In addition, I propose the Borough assign a fee for "treat, no transport", as currently there is no fee for such calls.

The fee schedule proposed at this time would be as follows:

BLS Non-Emergent	=	\$368.93
BLS Emergent	=	\$491.90
ALS Non-Emergent	=	\$368.93
ALS Emergent (level 1)	=	\$584.14
ALS Emergent (level 2)	=	\$845.46
Mileage (patient loaded)	=	\$ 9.14 (per mile)
Treat, no transport	=	\$100.00 (Borough Fee)

If you approve this proposal, it will increase revenue and assist with offsetting the costs of operating an Ambulance service (supplies, training volunteers, fuel, vehicle maintenance, insurance, etc).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sandy

Attachments: Service Descriptions and Examples

# **AMBULANCE BILLING**

## **DESCRIPTIONS AND EXAMPLES**

### **BLS Non-Emergent**

Provide non-emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport.  
Provide non-emergency transport to patients with medical situations that are not life threatening.

example:

Non-ambulatory, unable to sit or stand, or for comfort  
Medevac (inter-hospital transfer)  
Scheduled  
No other means of transport

Staffing: EMT-1 (basic)

### **BLS Emergent**

Provide emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport.  
Medically necessary.  
Immediate response required.  
Detrimental to patient's health without medical follow-up.

example:

Sudden onset of injury or illness needing immediate medical attention.

Staffing: EMT-1 (basic)

### **ALS Non-Emergent**

Provide non-emergency Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport.  
Required assessment or intervention by ALS provider.

Ex:

Transport of patient requiring ALS skills.

Staffing: EMT-2/3 (intermediate)

### **ALS Emergent (Level 1)**

Provide emergency Advance Life Support (ALS) Transport and treatment.  
Medically necessary.  
Immediate response required.  
Sudden onset.  
Without response would seriously jeopardize patient's health.

Example:

Diabetic emergency.  
Anaphylaxis.

Staffing: EMT-2/3 (intermediate)

### **ALS Emergent (Level 2)**

Provide emergency Advance Life Support (ALS) Transport and treatment.  
Medically necessary.  
Immediate response required.  
Sudden onset.  
Without response would seriously jeopardize patient's health.

Ex:

Cardiac Arrest  
Extrication with significant medical issue and/or trauma.

Staffing: EMT-2/3 (intermediate)