



**MAXIMUM EMERGENCY GROUND AMBULANCE RATES**

I. AUTHORITY:

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

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**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020**

The following is a list of maximum allowable emergency ambulance services rates to be charged an emergency patient by a licensee. These rates were approved by the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.

| TYPE OF CHARGE                    | BASIS FOR CHARGE  | 2019 RATE  | 2020 RATE  |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|------------|
| Emergency BLS Base Rate           | Applicable for urgent or Code 3 responses at the request of a public safety employee. | \$1,106.10 | \$1,197.91 |
| Mileage                           | Per patient mile or fraction thereof.   | \$ 18.19   | \$ 18.75   |
| Oxygen (includes mask or cannula) | Applicable when administered  | \$ 89.17   | \$ 91.93   |
| Standby                           | Per 15 minutes after the first 15 minutes and any fraction thereof.                   | \$ 43.69   | \$ 45.04   |
| Expendable Medical Supplies       | Maximum per response or fair market value, whichever is the least amount              | \$ 35.20   | \$ 36.29   |

ALS Paramedic Assessment and Transportation Rate for Orange County Fire Authority Jurisdictional Area (excepting for San Clemente, Westminster, and Buena Park) \$387.35

**Approved:**

Carl Schultz, M.D.  
OCEMS Director

Effective Date: 07/01/2020  
Reviewed Date: 07/03/2020  
Original Date: 7/1989

Emergency Medical Care Committee  
 Informational Item Only  
 July 10, 2020

**Authority**

As specified in Division 9, Title 4 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange (Ambulance Ordinance 3517), the Board of Supervisors establishes the maximum Basic Life Support (BLS) emergency ground ambulance rates applicable within the County’s unincorporated area and cities that have agreed with the Ordinance for the provision of licensing and regulation of ambulance services. Ordinance 3517 also establishes the authority to adjust the maximum Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic Assessment and Transport rate applicable for the Orange County Fire Authority’s (OCFA) jurisdictional areas, with the exception of three cities that establish their own ALS rate.

Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) policy #715.00 Ground Emergency Ambulance Service Rates – Adjustment identifies the process for annually rate adjustments. On August 8, 2017, the Orange County Board of Supervisors passed Board Resolution No. 17-094 which approved the revision of the ambulance rates and adopted the recommended methodology for calculation and application of future annual adjustments. The Board authorized the Health Care Agency (HCA) to make an annual adjustment effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Data is obtained from the US Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)) to determine the percentage from the prior year and applied to the current rate.

**2020 Maximum 911 Emergency Basic Life Support Rates FY 2020-21**

Due to the discontinuation of the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Counties “all item” CPI index by the US Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2018, the Health Care Agency is currently using the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim “all items” CPI index to adjust the rates for mileage, oxygen, standby, and medical supplies for 2019 and thereafter. The emergency base rate will continue to be adjusted using the percentage adjustment of State of Federal minimum wage increases. The Ambulance Association of Orange County agreed to the change of the new CPI method in 2019.

| Description                 | 2019 Rate  | Effects of Minimum Wage <sup>1</sup> | CPI % Change <sup>2</sup> | \$ Increase | 2020 Rates (effective 7/1/20) |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Emergency Base Rate         | \$1,106.10 | 8.3%                                 |                           | \$91.81     | \$1,197.91                    |
| Mileage per mile            | \$18.19    |                                      | 3.1%                      | \$ 0.56     | \$18.75                       |
| Oxygen                      | \$89.17    |                                      | 3.1%                      | \$ 2.76     | \$91.93                       |
| Standby, per 15 minutes     | \$43.69    |                                      | 3.1%                      | \$ 1.35     | \$45.04                       |
| Expendable Medical Supplies | \$35.20    |                                      | 3.1%                      | \$ 1.09     | \$36.29                       |


<sup>1</sup>Effects of Minimum Wage

<sup>2</sup> CPI (Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim “all items”)

## New Minimum Wage Phase in Requirement 2017-2023 SB 3 Frequently Asked Questions

The following Frequently Asked Questions guidance is meant to address specific questions relating to SB 3 (Leno, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2016) and how the phase-in of minimum wage rates will apply. For additional information about general questions regarding the Minimum Wage please see the Labor Commissioner's Minimum Wage Frequently Asked Questions page.

**What is the schedule for the new state minimum wage increases created by SB 3 (Leno, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2016)? How will I know what minimum wage rate applies to my workplace?**

| Date            | Minimum Wage for Employers with 25 Employees or Less | Minimum Wage for Employers with 26 Employees or More | % increase in Emergency Base Rate July 1   |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| January 1, 2017 | \$10.00/hour   | \$10.50/hour   |  |
| January 1, 2018 | \$10.50/hour   | \$11.00/hour   |  |
| January 1, 2019 | \$11.00/hour   | \$12.00/hour   | 9.1%   |
| January 1, 2020 | \$12.00/hour   | \$13.00/hour   | 8.3%  |
| January 1, 2021 | \$13.00/hour   | \$14.00/hour   | 7.7%   |
| January 1, 2022 | \$14.00/hour   | \$15.00/hour   | 7.1%   |
| January 1, 2023 | \$15.00/hour   |  |  |

$$\text{Change in Minimum Wage Rate} = \frac{\$13.00 - \$12.00}{12.00} = .0833 \text{ or } 8.3\%$$

