

In accordance with Ordinance No. 2004-04, the City of University Heights will be billing Health Insurance carriers for emergency ambulance services beginning May 1, 2004. A three-tier fee system will be utilized.

WHAT CONSTITUTES
EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCY SERVICES OCCUR WHEN THE CITY'S PARAMEDICS AND RESCUE SQUAD RESPOND TO A 9-1-1 CALL OR AN EQUIVALENT CALL AFTER THE SUDDEN ONSET OF A MEDICAL CONDITION.

Under the new system, payment is made subsequently for Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advance Life Support (ALS) or Advance Life Support Plus (ALS2). In almost all cases, Health Insurance or Medicare will pay the cost. For those without coverage, and where financial hardship exists, the fee will be waived.

(1) The fee will be \$350 for any patient with a non-life-threatening emergency transported to a hospital Emergency Room, often referred to as a BLS Call (Basic Life Support).

(2) A fee of \$450 will be charged for any patient with a life-threatening emergency transported to a hospital Emergency Room, often referred to as an ALS Call (Advance Life Support). ALS intervention requires one or more of the following:

- administering intravenous therapy
- providing anti-shock trousers
- establishing and maintaining patient's airway
- defibrillating of the heart
- stabilizing pneumothorax conditions

(3) A fee of \$500 will be charged for any patient who is transported to a hospital Emergency Room with a life-threatening emergency such as a serious impairment of bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part. This is often referred to as ALS2 (Advance Life Support Plus) which requires one or more of the following:

- manual defibrillation/cardioversion
- endotracheal intubation
- central venous line
- cardiac pacing
- chest decompression
- surgical airway
- intraosseous line
- admission of 3 medications either the same or different, given by IV push.

Plus \$6.00 per mile for all BLS/ALS/ALS2 transports one way

NOTE

The provisions of these Basic Life Support (BLS) and these Advanced Life Support services (ALS & ALS2) are as defined in the National EMS Education and Practice Blueprint. The procedures described above are examples but not inclusive of all procedures.



Q. HOW WILL THE BILLING PROCEDURE WORK?

A. Our goal is to make the process as easy as possible

- If we are able to obtain your health care insurance information at the time of your emergency ambulance service, your insurance company or Medicare will be billed directly.

- If we are not able to get the information at the time of your emergency ambulance service, you will receive a bill to forward to your health care insurance company or Medicare.

- If you do not have health care insurance or Medicare, and paying the ambulance fee would cause a hardship, then call our Finance Director at 216-932-7800 Ext. 217 to have the fee waived.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL

Finance Director Arman R. Ochoa
or Mayor Beryl E. Rothschild
at 216-932-7800
or Councilperson Susan K. Intfeld,
Chairwoman, Finance Committee
at 216-932-4222

We're ready to answer all of your questions. We're here to serve YOU.
If you misplace this brochure, you can view it online at

www.universityheights.com under "Fire" or obtain another copy at City Hall