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**MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

October 5, 2022

TO: Michael Ritter, MD, Emergency Medical Care Committee Chair  
Health Care Agency/Emergency Medical Services

**SUBJECT: Recommendation of the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee of the Emergency Medical Care Committee Regarding the Proposed Ground Emergency Ambulance Services Basic Life support Rates Adjustment**

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On October 5, 2022, the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee of the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) reviewed and endorsed the calculated ground emergency ambulance rates as proposed by Orange County Emergency Medical Services on August 16, 2022.

Basic Life Support (BLS) Rate

In accordance with Orange County EMS Policy/Procedure #715.00 (Ground Emergency Ambulance Service Rate Adjustment), the public were notified of the proposed BLS rates increase and invited to provide written comments from August 18, 2022 through September 30, 2022 for consideration by Orange County EMS.

Under Ambulance Ordinance 3517, the Board of Supervisors has sole authority to adjust the maximum ambulance rates. Following Board Resolution No. 17-094, Item #29, automated annual adjustments were applied to account for the mandated minimum wage increases and CPI factors up to January 1, 2022. There are no longer automated adjustments scheduled.

The primary drivers behind the proposed increase include but are not limited to a longstanding EMS retention and recruitment challenge, difficulty matching workers with the right employers and the need for better pay and working conditions. Of significance, the proposed increase in base rate will include chargers for oxygen and Medicare, Medi-Cal and private insurance carriers to be listed as separate line-item charges, no longer allows expendable medical supplies as those charges. The proposed increase will NOT be passed onto the Medicare and Medi-Cal patients.

Recommendation

The Transportation Advisory Subcommittee is recommending the Emergency Medical Care Committee approve the proposed increase to the 9-1-1 Emergency BLS Base Rate and the rates for mileage and standby as outlined in the proposal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert M. Viera', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert M. Viera, Chair  
Transportation Advisory Subcommittee

Attachment: #4412 Proposed Ambulance Rates



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October 14, 2022

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
400 W. Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SUBJECT: Health Care Agency Proposed Ground Ambulance Service Rates**

Honorable Board Members:

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you that on October, 14, 2022, the Orange County Emergency Medical Care Committee, an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors, reviewed the proposed Health Care Agency emergency medical services (EMS) ground ambulance service rates to become effective January 1, 2023.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) recommendation is to request a one-time adjustment of approved ambulance rates to match the Los Angeles County General Public Ambulance Rates and the consolidation of oxygen and medical supply charges into the BLS Base Rate.

Furthermore, EMCC members recommended that Orange County EMS that future rates be adjusted annually, effective July 1, 2023 by multiplying the rates by the percentages change in the transportation portion of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, Western Region, as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month, February.

The Health Care Agency notified all concerned parties regarding the proposed rates. No written or verbal comments from the cities or fire departments were received in opposition to the new rates proposed.

Please contact Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN, Director, Health Care Agency/Emergency Medical Services division at (714) 834-2791 with any questions you may have regarding this issue.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Ritter, MD, Chair  
Emergency Medical Care Committee



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**DATE:** November 3, 2022

**TO:** Emergency Receiving Centers (ERCs)  
911 Providers  
Base Hospital Coordinators

**SUBJECT: HEALTH EMERGENCY CRISIS FROM RSV IN ORANGE COUNTY**

As you may be aware, Orange County has declared a health emergency due to the increasing spread of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections in the pediatric population. It is becoming increasingly likely that in the next few days, the two pediatric hospitals in Orange County (Children's Hospital of Orange County and CHOC at Mission Hospital) will become saturated and unable to accept additional patients. This is affecting both their in-patient capacity as well as their emergency departments. Both hospitals have already entered pediatric surge mode with expansion of patient care into non-patient care areas and placed themselves on ambulance diversion for the first time in many years. As such, it may soon be necessary to begin shifting some in-patient and 911 field pediatric care to other hospitals.

Orange County EMS wants to ensure that all hospitals and 911 providers are aware of this situation. The Base Hospital Coordinators will inform their MICNs to begin utilizing other hospitals as destinations for providing pediatric care in patients from the field who are not critically ill. The 911 providers should also be aware that they should begin utilizing other ERCs as destinations for selected pediatric patients.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Carl H. Schultz, MD  
EMS Medical Director  
Deputy Health Officer  
Orange County Health Care Agency

CHS:chs#4462

cc: Claus Hecht, MD  
Robert Katzer, MD, MBA  
Shira Schlesinger, MD, MPH

## Schultz, Carl

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**From:** Mike Ritter <rittermd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 1:47 PM  
**To:** Schultz, Carl  
**Subject:** Re: Appointment of new chair for Transportation Advisory Committee

**Attention:** This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

## Approve - Happy Holidays

Mike Ritter, MD, FACEP  
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Dictated with Dragon

On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 1:43 PM Schultz, Carl <[CSchultz@ochca.com](mailto:CSchultz@ochca.com)> wrote:

Mike

The previous chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Rob Viera, has stepped down. I would like to nominate Jim Karras to take this position. He has actually chaired this committee in the past. I touched base with him already and he will accept the role if you authorize it. Per the TAC bylaws, the Chair of the EMCC has to sign off on this nomination forwarded by the EMS Medical Director. So if you reply back that you approve this, we are done.

Carl



**Carl H. Schultz, MD, FACEP**

EMS Medical Director

Deputy County Health Officer

Emergency Medical Services

Orange County Health Care Agency

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