

# County of Orange Health Care Agency Emergency Medical Services

## 2026 Ambulance Rates Adjustment – Methodology

Pursuant to resolution [22-163](#) approved by the OC Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2022 (ASR 22-001030), the Health Care Agency Director or designee is authorized to make an annual adjustment to the above maximum rates, effective July 1 of each year, by multiplying the rates by the percentage 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](#). Based on an analysis of the below referenced tables, the **CPI increased by 4.3%**. Therefore, OCEMS Policy 714.00, *Maximum Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates* has been updated accordingly and becomes effective on July 1, 2026.

$$x = 452.535 - 434.072 / 434.072$$

$$x = 18.463 / 434.072$$

$$x = 4.25\% \text{ or } \mathbf{4.3\%}$$

[Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month, February](#)

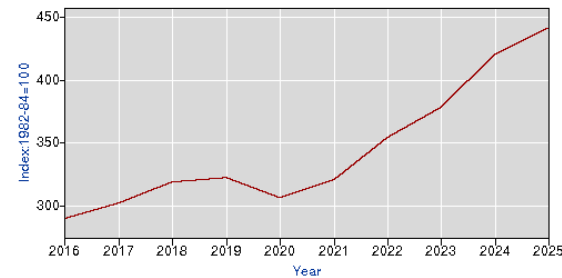
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[https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0400SAS4?amp%253bdata\\_t ool=XGtable&output\\_view=data&include\\_graphs=true](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0400SAS4?amp%253bdata_t ool=XGtable&output_view=data&include_graphs=true)

Data extracted on: March 17, 2026 (12:52:03 PM)

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

**Series Id:** CUUR0400SAS4  
 Not Seasonally Adjusted  
**Series Title:** Transportation services in West urban, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted  
**Area:** West  
**Item:** Transportation services  
**Base Period:** 1982-84=100



Download: [XLS](#)

Type of Charge	Basis for Charge	Effective 7/1/2025	Effective 7/1/2026
Emergency BLS Base Rate (1,2)	Applicable for urgent or Code 3 responses at the request of a public safety employee	\$ 2,413.51	\$ 2,517.29
Emergency ALS Base Rate (1,2)	Applicable for urgent or Code 3 responses at the request of a public safety employee	\$ 2,923.74	\$ 3,049.46
Mileage	Per patient mile or fraction thereof.	\$ 25.10	\$ 26.17
Standby time	Per 30 minutes after the first 30 minutes.	\$ 169.93	\$ 177.23

BLS & ALS Base Rates apply in Orange County Fire Authority Jurisdictional Area (except for Buena Park, San Clemente and Westminster)  
 1 Park, San Clemente and Westminster)  
 2 Oxygen & medical supplies included in base rates

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	HALF1	HALF2
2016	285.013	286.440	287.083	289.811	293.300	294.653	292.409	289.217	288.181	288.372	290.285	290.356	289.593	289.383	289.803
2017	292.278	295.116	297.076	299.346	302.509	304.937	302.777	300.766	301.491	304.522	307.585	308.597	301.417	298.544	304.290
2018	309.895	314.358	315.796	316.800	319.606	320.245	319.043	318.229	320.048	322.968	323.655	317.832	318.206	316.117	320.296
2019	318.519	320.168	320.549	322.512	325.305	325.504	322.397	321.034	320.998	321.753	321.138	318.458	321.528	322.093	320.963
2020	318.559	320.819	314.092	302.810	293.348	298.883	306.127	300.958	296.416	302.720	308.576	304.439	305.646	308.085	303.206
2021	306.105	307.975	310.120	322.115	328.552	335.488	334.006	319.961	315.690	317.998	321.457	320.436	319.992	318.393	321.591
2022	325.189	329.493	336.388	349.770	355.856	365.608	367.484	359.466	361.129	367.184	366.598	360.625	353.733	343.717	363.748
2023	364.790	369.034	372.163	374.955	377.918	378.716	380.992	380.872	381.378	383.000	384.817	385.594	377.852	372.929	382.776
2024	391.805	402.704	420.768	426.880	427.430	426.172	422.480	419.338	422.950	424.196	426.031	425.964	419.727	415.960	423.493
2025	431.812	434.072	435.932	440.327	444.011	444.462	443.754	444.839	446.682	-(X)	447.280	443.334	441.500	438.436	445.178
2026	451.477	452.535													

X : Data unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations