HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Samuel Peña, Fire Chief
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Billing Ordinance and Fee Schedule Proposal
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fee Schedule

- PFM Consulting was selected to work with stakeholders including City Departments, Controller's Office and City Council, to develop a long-range financial plan for the City of Houston.
- Over 50 recommendations to begin addressing the City’s financial challenges were made as part of the long-range financial plan released in November 2017.
- The following ordinance proposals are pursuant to those recommendations.
Proposed EMS Fee Schedule Changes

- Increase the base rate for EMS Transport to $1876.40
- Initiate charge at the CMS BLS rate of $365.00 for Field Terminations
- Initiate charge of $175.00 for Treatment-no-Transport
- Initiate charge of $175.00 for Lift Assist calls
EMS Transport Fee

- Finance Department cost analysis conducted in 2016
- Last EMS Transport fee increase in 2012
- Current EMS transport service fee: $1,104.65
- Current EMS transport service cost: $1,876.40
EMS Transport Fee

Payer Mix

- Medicare/Medicaid: 53%
- Commercial/Third-Party Payer: 13.50%
- Self-Pay: 33%
EMS Transport Fee

Payer Reimbursement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Self-Pay</th>
<th>Third-Party Payer</th>
<th>Medicare/Medicaid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>1.49%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td>1.17%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
EMS Transport Fee

EMS Transport Fee Collections

Chart Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Collected</th>
<th>Total Billed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY16 @41%</td>
<td>$110.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17 @39%</td>
<td>$109.69</td>
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</table>

$45.18 $42.99

$100.00

$80.00

$60.00

$40.00

$20.00

$0.00
# EMS Transport Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outstanding Account Receivable*</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 16</td>
<td>$65,182,887</td>
<td>$64,656,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures base on total net charges billed and total received
EMS Transport Fee

- Current EMS transport fee
  - $1104.65 plus $14.36 per mile

- Proposed EMS transport fee
  - $1876.40 plus $14.36 per mile
Field Termination Fee

- At Federal level, all EMS providers are categorized as transport services

- Billing Codes primarily apply to EMS transports

- CMS allows exemption for Field Termination fees
  - Current charge $0
  - Recommendation to bill at BLS rate: $365.00
Treatment-no-Transport Fee

- Provide therapeutic care without transport.
- Not intended for full cost recovery.
- Currently no fee
  - Recommendation: $175.00
- CMS does not support fee. Some private insurers may reimburse.
- FY18 had nearly 30,000 responses for therapeutic care without transport.
  - Estimated collections at 15%.
Lift Assist Fee

- No therapy or care, only assistance to return the person upright or to a position of comfort.
  - Currently no fee, recommended fee of $175.00
- Lift Assist
  - Not intended to cover “full” cost of response.
  - Create opportunity to enlighten responsible party/third party payer that the individual may need assistance/intervention.
Questions?