



**AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
GROUND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT**

**I. AUTHORITY:**

Orange County Board of Supervisors, Resolution No. 22-163, Item No.34

**II. APPLICATION:**

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedure and methodology to be utilized by the Health Care Agency (HCA) Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) for an annual review and adjustment of the maximum 9-1-1 emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) ground ambulance and Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedic assessment and transport rates for the unincorporated areas of Orange County and cities that have adopted Section 4-9-12 of the Codified Ordinances of Orange County.

**III. GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

- A. HCA is authorized to make annual adjustments to the maximum 9-1-1 emergency BLS and ALS ground ambulance rates effective July 1 of each year. Rate adjustments are based on methodologies adopted by the Board of Supervisors that utilize the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Rates shall be calculated for the following categories:
  - 1. Emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate
  - 2. Mileage (per patient mile or fraction thereof)
  - 3. Standby Time (per 15 minutes after the first 15 minutes and any fraction thereof)

**IV. ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS**

- A. Starting July 1, 2023, OCEMS shall:
  - 1. Utilize the Board approved methodology to make an annual adjustment to the maximum BLS and ALS rates by multiplying the rates by the percentage change in the transportation portion of the CPI for all Urban Consumers, Western Region as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)) for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month, February.
  - 2. Submit the calculated rate adjustments to the HCA Director or designee for approval.
    - a. When approved, the rate change shall be effective July 1 of each year. OCEMS licensed ambulance service providers, City Managers, and Orange County Fire Chiefs shall be notified in writing of the action.
    - b. HCA may seek Board approval of any adjustments to the maximum rates that exceed the methodology adopted by the Board..

Approved:




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OCEMS Director

Effective Date: 08/07/2017; 07/01/2023  
 Reviewed Date(s): 08/14/2017; 06/28/2023  
 Original Date: 07/1989