EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Tel: (562) 378-1500
Fax: (562) 378-1107

*"To advance the health of our communities by ensuring quality emergency and disaster medical services."*

March 24, 2026

**TO:** Fire Chief, All 9-1-1 Paramedic Provider Agencies
CEO, Private Provider Agencies
City Manager, Each Los Angeles County City

**FROM:** Richard Tadeo
Director

**SUBJECT:** **GENERAL PUBLIC AMBULANCE RATES JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027**

Attached are the maximum allowable rates to the general public for ambulance transportation as of July 1, 2026, as per section 7.16.340, Modification of Rates, of the County Ordinance (Attachment I).

Transportation services provided on or after July 1, 2026 may not be billed above the allowable maximum rates per the attached rate schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact David Wells, Chief of Prehospital Operations at (562) 378-1677 or dwells@dhs.lacounty.gov.

RT:dw

Attachment

c: Georgina Glaviano, County Counsel, Health Services
Julio Alvarado, Director, Contracts and Grants
Ruth Guerrero, Contract Manager, Contracts and Grants
Cristina Talamantes, Ordinance Liaison, Board of Supervisors
Executive Office

**ATTACHMENT I**

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
# GENERAL PUBLIC AMBULANCE RATES
# EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

## 7.16.280 Rate schedule for Ambulances.

A. A ground ambulance operator shall charge no more than the following rates for one patient:

Rates Effective July 1, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Response to a non-emergency call with equipment and personnel at an advanced life support (ALS) level | $3,336.00 |
| 2. | Response to an emergency call with equipment and personnel at an advanced life support (ALS) level | $3,572.00 |
| 3. | Response to a non-emergency call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level | $2,222.00 |
| 4. | Response to an emergency call with equipment and personnel at a basic life support (BLS) level | $2,385.00 |
| 5. | Mileage Rate. Each mile or fraction thereof | $31.00 |
| 6. | Waiting Time. For each 30-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 30 minutes of waiting time at the request of the person hiring the ambulance | $189.00 |
| 7. | Standby Time. The base rate for the prescribed level of service and, in addition, for each 30-minute period or fraction thereof after the first 30 minutes of standby time | $180.00 |

B. This section does not apply to a contract between the ambulance operator and the county where different rates or payment mechanisms are specified.

***Editor's note:** Fee changes in this section include changes made by the Director of Emergency Medical Services Agency in accordance with County Code Section 7.16.340 – Modification of Rates are effective July 1, 2023, and every July 1 thereafter.

## 7.16.310 Special charges.

A. A ground ambulance operator shall charge no more than the following rates for special ancillary services:

Rates Effective July 1, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Request for service after 7:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. of the next day will be subject to an additional maximum charge of | $33.00 |
| 2. | Persons requiring oxygen shall be subject to an additional maximum charge per tank or fraction thereof, and oxygen delivery equipment to include nasal cannula and/or oxygen mask, of | $127.00 |
| 3. | Neonatal transport | $316.00 |
| 4. | Registered Nurse or Respiratory Therapist Specialty Care Transport with equipment and personnel for up to 3 hours of transportation time | $4,018.00 |
| 5. | Registered Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Specialty Care Transport with equipment and personnel for up to 3 hours of transportation time | $4,540.00 |
| 6. | Registered Nurse and/or Respiratory Therapist per hours after the first 3 hours | $226.00 |
| 7. | Volume ventilator | $246.00 |
| 8. | Disposable medical supplies | $37.00 |

B. Where other special services are requested or needed by any patient or authorized representative thereof, a reasonable charge commensurate with the cost of furnishing such special service may be made, provided that the ambulance operator shall file with the Director of the Department of Health Services a schedule of each special service proposed and the charge therefore, which charge shall be effective unless modified, restricted, or denied by the Director of the Department of Health Services. Special services are defined as services provided to a patient that are unique and individual to a specific patient's needs, and are performed on a limited basis.

C. Charges for special services provided to patients that are new services, but will become an industry standard, must be reviewed and a rate commensurate with the service developed prior to ambulance operators charging such rate to the general public. Such rates shall not be charged to patients until approved by the Board of Supervisors.

D. This section does not apply to a contract between an ambulance operator and the county where different rates or payment mechanisms are specified.

(Ord. 2011-0031 § 28, 2011: Ord. 2003-0058 § 4, 2003: Ord. 96-0067 § 18, 1996: Ord. 94-0038 § 2, 1994: Ord. 91-0071 § 3, 1991: Ord. 90-0088 § 2, 1990: Ord. 89-0092 § 3, 1989: Ord. 88-0181 § 33, 1988; Ord. 88-0170 § 3, 1988: Ord. 87-0131U § 2, 1987: Ord. 86-0111 § 2, 1986: Ord. 85-0120U § 2, 1985: Ord. 83-0201 § 4, 1983: Ord. 83-0017 § 3 (part), 1983: Ord. 82-0105 § 3, 1982: Ord. 12077 § 1 (part), 1980: Ord. 11806 § 1 (part), 1978: Ord. 5860 Ch. 4 § 1010, 1951.)

***Editor's note:** Fee changes in this section include changes made by the Director of Emergency Medical Services Agency in accordance with County Code Section 7.16.310 – Modification of Rates and are effective July 1, 2023 and every July 1 thereafter.

## 7.16.340 Modification of rates.

The maximum rates chargeable to the general public as set forth in Sections 7.16.280 and 7.16.310 of this chapter shall be adjusted effective July 1, 1992, and on July 1st of each year thereafter, to reflect changes in the value of the dollar. For each of the one-year periods respectively beginning July 1, 1992 and July 1, 1993, such adjustments shall be made by multiplying the base amounts 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 of February. Beginning July 1, 1994, and on each July 1 thereafter, such adjustments shall be determined by multiplying the base amounts by the average of the percentage changes of the transportation portion and of the medical 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 of February. Beginning July 1, 2017, and on every July 1 thereafter, such adjustments shall be determined by multiplying seventy-five (75) percent of the base amounts by the percentage change of the minimum wage change in Los Angeles County as defined in County Code Section 8.100.040 – Minimum Wage and by multiplying twenty-five (25) percent of the base amounts by the percentage change of the Medical Care line item of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Customers, 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 of February, except for the following changes: Registered Nurse/Respiratory Therapist per hour after the first three (3) hours adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the current charge by the percentage change of the minimum wage change in Los Angeles County as defined in County Code Section 8.100.040 – Minimum Wage: mileage adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the current charge for the percentage change of the transportation line item of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Customers, Western Region, as compiled as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month of February: and Oxygen, Disposable Medical Supplies, and a Ventilator adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the current charges by the percentage change of the Medical Care line item of the Consumer Price Index for all of the Customers, 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 of February. Beginning July 1, 2024, and on every July 1 thereafter, such adjustments shall be determined by multiplying seventy-five (75) percent of the base amounts by the percentage change of the minimum wage change in Los Angeles County as defined in County Code Section 8.100.040 – Minimum Wage, or by two percent, whichever is higher, and by multiplying twenty-five (25) percent of the base amounts by the percentage change of the Medical Care line item 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 of February. The result so determined shall be rounded to the nearest whole number and added or subtracted, as appropriate, to the rate. The Director of the department of health services shall initiate implementation of these rate changes by notifying in writing each licensed private ambulance operator in Los Angeles County thereof, and any other individual or agency requesting such notification from the Director. Such notice shall be sent by first class mail no later than June 15 of the prior period.

(Ord. 94-0038 § 3, 1994: Ord. 91-0071 § 4, 1991: Ord. 88-0170 § 4, 1988: Ord. 83-0017 § (part), 1983: Ord. 11806 § 1 (part), 1978: Ord. 5860 Ch. 4 § 1017, 1951.)