



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AMBULANCE FEES

2009

Your Health is Our First Priority

Every minute counts when you're faced with a medical emergency. If you feel you need medical attention, don't hesitate to dial 9-1-1. Our highly trained Firefighter/Paramedics are just a phone call away.

Why is the City of Lima billing for Emergency Medical Services?

To generate revenue that will serve to enhance the Fire *Rescue* Division services provided by the City through increased manpower, fire stations, new vehicles, and equipment. Billing for Emergency Medical Services is a basic user fee. A user fee only affects those individuals who use the service, including non-residents. After reviewing several alternatives, this method generated the most interest since it increased revenues without affecting the entire population like a property tax.

How will this affect me?

As a resident of the City of Lima, you will NOT be responsible for any direct payment of ambulance fees. The City will accept whatever (if any) amount your insurance company or Medicare pays on your behalf. You will be asked to sign the Lima Fire Department's EMS Run Report that will authorize us to collect directly, all insurance benefits for services provided, and to obtain / release any medical information necessary to process the claim.

Will Medicare cover the ambulance / transportation fee?

Medicare has a maximum amount they will pay for ambulance fees. You may also have Medicare Supplemental Insurance, which would cover any fees not paid by Medicare. We are required by law to accept the Medicare allowable amount and cannot bill for the difference between the allowable and the established fee.

Will I be charged if I call for Medical Services but don't go to the hospital?

No. The established fees are for providing the service of transporting patients to the hospitals located in the City of Lima.

Can I still be taken to the hospital of my choice?

Absolutely. Our Paramedics will continue transporting patients to either St. Rita's Medical Center or Lima Memorial Hospital. The choice is yours, unless the need arises to transport you to the nearest hospital.

How can I afford the Emergency Medical Service Ambulance Fees?

Our billing program accepts the fact that you, as a resident of the City of Lima, already pay your portion through taxes and you will not be responsible for any fees not covered by insurance. A "Request For Information" form may be sent to you regarding your primary and/or secondary insurance. Simply make the necessary changes/corrections so that we may submit a claim for payment on your behalf. Again, you will not be responsible for any unpaid balances.

It is our intent that the ambulance fees should have a minimal impact on citizens. **Your health is our first priority.** The financial details are secondary to your need for medical attention. We realize that you may have no insurance. Please rest assured that no one will be denied medical attention because of the inability to pay the ambulance/transportation fees. Do not let the established fee stand in your way.

What other area communities currently bill for Emergency Medical Services?

Shawnee Twp.	Perry	Delphos	Bluffton	Beaverdam	Cairo	Bath Twp.
Van Wert	Wapakoneta		Sidney	St. Mary's	Celina	
	Columbus	Toledo	Dayton			

IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (419) 221-5160