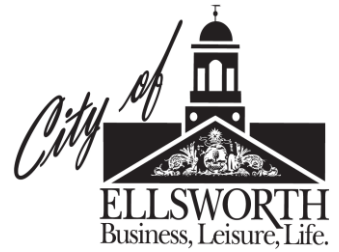


CHAPTER 64
EMS Billing and Collections Ordinance
CITY OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE

A true copy –

Attest:
City Clerk



Adopted 09/18/2023

City of Ellsworth, Maine

EMS Billing & Collections Ordinance

Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is establish billing and collection for user fees and beneficiaries with the intention of providing efficient, effective and sustainable Emergency Medical Services and offset direct costs..

Definitions

- A. 911 Call – A call made to a 911 Public Safety Answering Point requesting the response of an ambulance for a medical emergency.

- B. Advanced Life Support -ALS
 - a. ALS-1: Providing transportation by ground ambulance vehicle, medically necessary supplies and services, and either and ALS personnel or the provision of at least on ALS intervention.

 - b. ALS-2: Providing transportation by ground ambulance vehicle, medically necessary supplies and service, and the administration of a least 3 medications by intravenous push/bolus, or by continuous infusions excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic, and hypertonic solutions (dextrose, normal saline, ringers lactate). Or providing transportation, medically necessary supplies and services, and the provision of one of the following
 - i. Manual Defibrillation/Cardioversion; or
 - ii. Endotracheal Intubation; or
 - iii. Central venous line; or
 - iv. Cardiac pacing; or
 - v. Chest decompression; or
 - vi. Surgical airway; or
 - vii. Intravenous line

- C. ALS Intercept: The request from another service to utilize the services of the Ellsworth Fire Department’s ALS provider for assistance during a transport

- D. Basic Life Support-BLS: Providing transportation by ground ambulance and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, including BLS ambulance services as defined by the state.

- E. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), EMT-A, & Paramedic: An individual having the special, well defined skills and knowledge in emergency medicine, who has the training to provide pre-hospital emergency medical treatment at the Basic Life Support Level (EMT) or advance medical treatment at the advanced level (EMT-A or Paramedic) and is licensed by the State of Maine Emergency Medical Services.

- F. Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Services utilized in responding to needs of those persons in need of immediate medical care within the jurisdiction of the City, including but not limited to rendering of basic or advance life support care, provided by the Ellsworth Fire Department.
- G. Patient: A person who receives an EMS response or a person who receives emergency medical services from the Ellsworth Fire Department.
- H. The City: refers to the City of Ellsworth
- I. Third-party Payer: an insurance carrier or another coverage provider having the responsibility to pay for medical services rendered to a patient as a result of the patients accident, injury or illness.
- J. Transport designation:
 - a. Transport: The transport of an individual to a hospital after a 911 call.
 - b. No Transport: The outcome of a 911 call when NO patient is transported to a hospital.
 - i. On Scene Care with evaluation- No Transport – The response to a 911 call where a patient is evaluated treated, and the patient is not transported to the hospital.
 - ii. On Scene Care with Medication – No transport – The response to a 911 call where a patient is evaluated, treated, medication administered, and the patient is not transported to the hospital.
 - iii. Call for Service without treatment-No Transport – The response to a 911 call where a patient is not transported to the hospital, and no medical care or treatment is provided. An example is a “lift assist.”

Designation as a Provider

The city recognizes the City of Ellsworth Fire Department as a provider of pre-hospital emergency medical services within the corporate limits of the City and outside of the City limits as determined by contract(s) or mutual aid agreements reviewed and approved by the City Council.

Designation Account of Funds

The fees collected from the provision of ambulance service shall be deposited directly into the EMS reserve account for the purpose of paying the reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred including personnel, training, supplies, and equipment, used in providing ambulance under this ordinance.

Fees cannot be used to raise general revenue or fund other services or general government. Monies from the EMS reserve or Ambulance reserve may be transferred into the general fund if it is to cover or offset direct departmental costs for EMS

Equal Delivery in Services

No persons requiring emergency medical services and/or transportation shall be denied due to lack of insurance or ability to pay levied charges.

Mutual Aid and Primary User Fess

The fees to be charged for ambulance service shall be determined by the City Council upon the recommendation of the City Manager representing all interests of the town and department.

The fees will be proportionate to the actual cost of providing service, will only be imposed on those who actually receive service and will be imposed on all similarly situated persons equally. Any exception to set fees must be approved by the City Council.

Transport Rates:

The following rates will be charged for transports. Mileage will be charged at the stated rate in addition to the transport charge:

Mileage per Mile	\$20
ALS Non-Emergency	\$550
ALS1 Emergency	\$1000
ALS 2 Emergency	\$1500
BLS Non-Emergency	\$475
BLS Emergency	\$750
ALS Intercept*	\$100 (Flat fee no mileage)

*billed directly to service requesting assistance.

Non-Transport Rates

The following rates will be charged for responses that do not result in transport:

Call for Service without Treatment -No Transport (Lift assists for no injury falls, medical alarm activations, etc...)	3 assists per month \$0, After 3 assists per month – per response fee \$35.
On Scene Care with evaluation/treatment– No Transport (medical complaints, non-medication treatment)	3 assists per month \$0, After 3 assists per month – per response fee \$35.
On Scene Care with Medication Therapy – No Transport	\$200

Agreements:

The City of Ellsworth may contract with a 3rd Party billing service for the administration of this policy.

Collections

The City of Ellsworth may authorize the 3rd Party billing company to pursue collection of all past-due accounts. .

Responsibility of Cost Recovery and Financial Oversight

The municipal Fire Chief shall bear the ultimate responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the provision of EMS by working in conjunction with City Officials/Committees, and the Fire Department.

The Finance Director/Treasurer has the ultimate responsibility to maintain the financial records and depositing of funds when submitted by the Fire Department for EMS responses.

Appeals

The City Manager may hear appeals of ambulance bills and make agreements with citizens for the payment of bills.

Legal Statement

Because municipalities in Maine have “home rule” power (30-A M.R.S.A §3001. Ordinance power) The City of Ellsworth is not dependent on existence of specific State enabling laws for the authority to establish fees. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to municipal home rule authority and Title 30-A Maine Revised Statutes Section §3001.

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be determined to be unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, such determination should not affect the validity of any other portion of the ordinance, or the remainder of the ordinance as a whole.