

AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND THAT PORTION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 2-137 PERTAINING TO FEES IN THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND TO ADD A PROVISION FOR RELIEF FROM DEBT FOR THOSE PATIENTS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

WHEREAS, Charleston County is entitled to commercially reasonable reimbursements for EMS services; and,

WHEREAS, Medicare rates for EMS services regularly increase based on commercially reasonable adjustments; and Charleston County Council last updated the EMS Fee Schedule on May 21, 2009, codified through Ordinance Number 1588; and,

WHEREAS, Charleston County is a participating supplier under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County EMS seeks to increase fees and rates in accordance with the annual Medicare Fee Schedule promulgated by CMS; and additionally authorize the Charleston County Administrator to annually establish such rates and fees in accordance with each annual Medicare Fee Schedule as may be amended by CMS from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County EMS also seeks to add a provision to the Code of Ordinances authorizing relief of burden for those patients experiencing financial hardship; and,

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council finds that the foregoing requests by Charleston County EMS to be in the best interest of the County and its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by Charleston County Council, in meeting duly assembled as followed:

SECTION I. FINDINGS INCORPORATED

The findings and recitals are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION II. TEXT CHANGES

The Emergency Medical Services fee schedule of Section 2-137 of the Charleston County Code of Ordinances is amended in its entirety and replaced with the following:

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

“Type of Service” means those definitions and interpretations as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Type of Service:	Fee:
Basic Life Support Emergency (BLS)	\$447.00
Advanced Life Support Emergency (ALS) 1	\$725.00
Advanced Life Support Emergency (ALS) 2	\$1,285.00
Mileage, per mile	\$10.25

BLS, without Transport	\$0, no charge
ALS without Transport	\$85.00
Reproduction of Medical Records	\$20.00 or in accordance with applicable law

Annualized Adjustment Authorized: Medicare adjusts reimbursement schedules annually on a calendar year. This ordinance grants to the Charleston County Administrator the authority to adjust Charleston County EMS fees based on the same percentage change as Medicare, to be implemented the following July 1st.

Financial Hardship: The Charleston County Administrator is authorized to develop a Financial Hardship Assistance Procedure. Such procedure may include elements based on Charleston County residency and uninsured/self-pay status, and may authorize the Director of EMS to waive collections from patients or in circumstances authorized by such procedure.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY

If, for any reason, any part of this Ordinance is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance is effective immediately upon approval following third reading.