

# DRAFT

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 2 ENTITLED ADMINISTRATION BY AMENDING SECTION 2-17, ENTITLED COST REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT BY CREATING A CATEGORY FOR BILLING BASED ON THE USE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BY COUNTY RESIDENTS AND NON-COUNTY RESIDENTS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopt and re-enacts Section 2-17, "Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Transport," of Chapter 2, Entitled Administration, as follows:

### **Sec. 2-17. Cost reimbursement for emergency medical transport.**

Reasonable fees shall be charged for emergency medical transport services provided by all County emergency medical services personnel upon adoption of a schedule of rates for emergency medical transport services. The schedule of rates for services shall be established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery. The funds received from the payment of these fees shall be used to aid in defraying the cost of providing emergency services.

#### **(a) Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Ambulance* means any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, which holds a valid permit issued by the office of emergency medical services, that is specially constructed, equipped, maintained and operated, and is intended to be used for emergency medical care and the transportation of patients who are sick, injured, wounded or otherwise incapacitated or helpless. The term "ambulance" may not appear on any vehicle, vessel or aircraft that does not hold a valid permit.

*Emergency medical services personnel* means persons responsible for the direct provision of emergency medical services in a given medical emergency, including all persons who could be described as attendants, attendant-in-charge or operators.

*Emergency medical transport services* means services providing transportation in an ambulance, accompanied by emergency medical services personnel, as defined herein.

#### **(b) Billing.**

- (1). A bill will be generated for ambulance transports by all County emergency medical services personnel.

- (2). Patients will generally fall into one of the following categories for billing purposes:
  - (a). *Insured, County Resident or Non-Resident.* The appropriate insurance carrier will be billed for emergency transport services utilized by County residents and non-County residents ~~the consumer of ambulance service~~
  - (b). *Uninsured, County Residents.* The County of Montgomery Compassionate Billing Policy provides for waiver of emergency transport fees to the extent permitted by law for uninsured County residents ~~consumers of ambulance services.~~
  - (c) *Uninsured Non-Residents.* Non-residents will be billed for emergency transport services. The County will utilize compassionate billing to the extent permitted by law.

**(c.) Compassionate billing policy.**

- (1). No one will ever be denied necessary medical transport service due to either their inability to pay or a lack of insurance.
- (2). All consumers of ambulance services will be asked to provide information regarding available insurance coverage. All consumers of ambulance services will receive written notification of the value of services received and notice of billing forwarded to their insurers.
- (3). Compassionate billing is intended to eliminate or minimize out-of-pocket expenses for consumers of ambulance services. The County regards taxes paid by residents of the County as inclusive of copays and/or deductibles for ambulance service for all persons living in a taxpaying household and the County will waive all cost sharing owed by County residents.
- (4). ~~The County's billing process or company will not pursue payment recovery through a debt collection agency without express authorization of the County Administrator or his/her designee.~~
- (5). If any insured party requires EMS transport within a given calendar year that exceeds his policy limits and no additional insurance coverage is available, the fees for service beyond coverage limits will be waived.
- (6). If the insurance company deems the transport is not medically necessary, the billing company will verify the information that was submitted to the insurance company and resubmit the claim for reconsideration. If the insurance carrier still deems the transport not medically necessary, the County Administrator or his/her designee will review the individual case for possible waiver of the fees.