

NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Notice of Adoption of Amendments to
Fire Department Rule
3 RCNY §4900-02, entitled
“Schedule of Charges for Fire Department
Ambulance Treatment and Transport Services”

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED in the Fire Commissioner of the City of New York pursuant to Section 487(f) of the New York City Charter, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter, that the New York City Fire Department has adopted the above final rule.

The public hearing was held on November 2, 2020. The rule shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

The Notice of Adoption, final rule and the Statement of Basis and Purpose of Rule, will be available on the Fire Department’s website (www.nyc.gov/fdny) and NYCRULES (www.nyc.gov/NYCRULES).

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Final Rule

The Fire Department is revising the amounts it charges patients and insurers for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) ambulance treatment and/or transport service provided through the New York City 911 System, to reflect increased costs and help defray the City’s cost of providing these services.

The charges for ambulance service were last increased more than 3½ years ago, in March 2017. The new rates reflect increases personal services (PS) costs and other than personal service (OTPS) costs required to provide emergency ambulance services, while at the same time reducing the portion of such costs that is currently borne by City taxpayers.

The schedule of charges maintains a single rate for Basic Life Support (BLS) service, and separate rates for Advanced Life Support (ALS) levels of service (ALS1 and ALS2). The definitions of BLS, ALS1 and ALS2 are determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The revised schedule of charges includes, for the first time, new BLS and ALS charges for a “treatment in place” initiative. This new health care initiative, which we anticipate will be implemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2021, utilizes ambulance personnel who have responded to a call for emergency medical assistance to facilitate remote evaluation of the patient by a higher level qualified healthcare professional (through an audio and video link).

The new rates, for “facilitation of treatment in place,” compensate the City for the time spent by BLS and/or ALS ambulance personnel in providing such services, equipping ambulances with the necessary communications equipment, and other program costs. If there is facilitation of treatment in place and the patient is not transported by ambulance,

Fire Department charges will be limited to the applicable facilitation rate, and oxygen if provided.

The rates set forth in the schedule of charges are the amounts that the Fire Department will bill for EMS ambulance treatment and transport service. The rates do not necessarily reflect the amounts accepted by the Fire Department as payment for such services from government and private health insurance plans.

Section 1. The Fire Department hereby amends the title of §4900-02 of Title 3 of the Rules of the City of New York and the schedule of charges for ambulance treatment and transport services provided by the Fire Department through the New York City 911 System, set forth in subdivision (b) of such section, to read as follows:

§4900-02 Schedule of Charges for Fire Department Ambulance Treatment and Transport Services

* * *

(b) Effective [March 12, 2017] January 1, 2021, the charges for Fire Department ambulance treatment and transport services are as follows:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Basic Life Support Ambulance	\$ [775.00] <u>900.00</u>
<u>Basic Life Support Ambulance Facilitation of Treatment in Place</u>	<u>\$ 630.00</u>
Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service Level 1 (ALS1)	\$ [1,310.00] <u>1,525.00</u>
Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service Level 2 (ALS2)	\$ [1,420.00] <u>1,625.00</u>
<u>Advanced Life Support Ambulance Facilitation of Treatment in Place</u>	<u>\$ 1,050.00</u>
Additional Charges:	
– Mileage (distance traveled to hospital or medical facility with patient)	\$ 15.00/mile
– Provision of Oxygen (as applicable)	\$ 66.00

Note: Highlighted text is existing underlined text. Retain underlining in publication of final rule.