

**KING WILLIAM COUNTY**  
**Ordinance for Third Party Billing Services**  
**Adopted November 2009**

**Chapter 33 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**Article I. Service fees for emergency medical transport.**

Pursuant to §32.1-111.14 of the *Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended*, reasonable fees shall be charged for emergency medical transport services provided by the fire and emergency medical services (EMS) departments. The schedule of rates for services shall be established by resolution of the board of supervisors.

**Sec. 33-1. Definitions.**

*Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply to emergency medical services transportation fees:

(a) *Basic life support (BLS):* Services shall be medical treatment or procedures to a patient as defined by the National Emergency Medicine Services (EMS) Education and Practice Blueprint for the Emergency Medical Technician- Basic (EMT).

(b) *Advanced life support, level 1 (ALS1):* Services shall be medical treatment or procedures provided to a patient beyond the scope of an EMT-Basic as defined by the National EMS Education and Practice Blueprint.

(c) *Advanced life support, level 2 (ALS2):* Services shall be defined as advanced life support (ALS) services provided to a patient including one or more of the following medical procedures: (i) defibrillation/cardioversion, (ii) endotracheal intubation, (iii) cardiac pacing, (iv) chest decompression, (v) intraosseous line, and/or (vi) the administration of three or more medications.

(d) *Ground transport mileage (GTM):* Mileage shall be assessed in statute miles from the location of the incident scene to a hospital or other facility where a patient is transported.

(e) *Authority of county administrator to establish rules and regulations for the administration of charges.* The county administrator or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to establish rules and regulations for the administration of the charges imposed by this section, including, but not limited to payment standards for those persons who demonstrate economic hardship.

(f) *Persons exempt from charges.* Notwithstanding subsection (c) above, no charge shall be imposed on persons in the following instances:

- (1) Persons determined to be indigent by the county using the same standards as those applied by the courts of the commonwealth;
- (2) Persons confined in a detention facility utilized by the county;
- (3) Persons affected by fire, flood, storm, natural or man-made calamity or disaster, or by widespread public disturbance or disorder when an emergency medical services vehicle responds as a matter of county policy without call; or
- (4) Persons transported pursuant to any no-charge mutual aid agreement with another jurisdiction.

**Sec. 33-2. Billing.**

Bills shall be generated for all ambulance transports conducted by all authorized ambulances as follows:

- (a) *Insured, county residents.* The appropriate insurance carrier will be billed. Insured county residents will not be responsible for any portion of such bill not covered by insurance.
- (b) *Insured non-residents.* The appropriate insurance carrier will be billed. Insured non-county residents will be responsible for any portion of such bill not covered by insurance.
- (e) *Exemptions.* Any person may apply for an exemption of and amount not covered by insurance, pursuant to the compassionate billing policy as set forth below and in the rules and regulations.

**Sec. 33-3. Compassionate billing policy.**

- (a) No one will ever be denied necessary medical transport service due to either their inability to pay or a lack of insurance.
- (b) Compassionate billing is intended to eliminate or minimize out-of-pocket expenses for ambulance services for those that do not have the means to pay. Priority may be given to county residents.
- (c) Any person receiving emergency medical transport may submit a waiver request form stating a financial hardship. Appropriate financial documentation will be required. If it is determined that payment of the emergency ambulance transport charges creates a financial hardship charges due may be reduced or waived.
- (d) The county administrator is authorized to enter into reciprocal agreements with other localities that have compassionate billing policies for emergency transportation fees.

**Sec. 33-4. Billing and collections.**

The county administrator is authorized to contract with a third party billing company to administer billing and collections under this article. No personnel will accept or receive payment on behalf of a patient during transport.

**Sec. 33-5. Rules and regulations.**

The county administrator or his designee shall promulgate regulations consistent with this article and intended to carry out the purpose of this article. Any changes to such rules and regulations shall be reviewed and adopted by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.