

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: January 28, 2025

To: Village Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: Ambulance Billing Rate Change

PURPOSE

Approve an ordinance amending the fee schedule for Paramedic Transportation, so that if the annual calculated fee for the upcoming year is less than the current fee, the Village is allowed to maintain the current billing rates, with the exception of what is allowed by Medicaid and remove the separate fee for other services, such as oxygen and immobilization.

PROCESS

GEMT

In 2023, the Village of Homewood entered into a yearly agreement with The Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (HFS) Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. This program allows public providers to receive supplemental payments above the current HFS fee schedule rates for the ground transport of “Medicaid” patients. Supplemental payments can be received as long as the actual cost to provide these services exceeds the reimbursement amount allowed under the HFS fee schedule. These supplemental payments to public providers are for Medicaid patients only.

Paramedic Transportation

In 2023, the Village amended the fee schedule to reflect that all Homewood patients would be billed at the same rates, whether Medicaid, Medicare or generally insured patients.

Annual Calculation

In order to participate in the GEMT program, staff is required to complete a cost report that identifies the “*cost per transport*” for the Village for Medicaid patients. A new cost report is required every year for Homewood’s participation in the GEMT program. The most recent report was completed in September of 2024. The “*cost per transport*” decreased from the prior year’s calculation.

- September 2023 calculation - \$2,707 per transport
- September 2024 calculation - \$1,774 per transport

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This new *per transport* calculation will decrease the amount of subsidy the Village will receive for Medicaid transports. Because Homewood joined our Medicare and regular insurance transports to the GEMT (Medicaid) costs, the annual calculations have the ability to reduce Homewood's charges and revenue received for Medicare and general insurance transports.

The Village's ambulance billing company, Paramedic Billing Services of Elmhurst, IL, advised that the Homewood should amend our Village fee schedule (ordinance) to ensure that our Medicare and generally insured transports are not impacted by the annual Medicaid requirements.

OUTCOME

The paramedic transport fees charged by the Village will remain the same as the previous 2024 calendar year with the exception of changes for Medicaid patients and the removal of fees for additional services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass an ordinance amending the "Fire" section of the fee schedule to allow the current fees for paramedic transport to remain in place for the following calendar year in the event the annual calculated fee for Medicaid transports for the upcoming year is less than the current fee; and, remove certain fees for additional services.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Ordinance