

**Emergency Medical Care Committee
Action Item
04/12/2019**

Recommended Action: Approve the Health Care Agency recommendation to adopt the use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim series to adjust the rates on an annual basis for Mileage, Oxygen, Standby and Expendable Supplies.

AUTHORITY

As specified in Division 9, Title 4, of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange (Ambulance Ordinance 3517), the Board of Supervisors establishes the maximum Basic Life Support (BLS) emergency ground ambulance rates applicable within the County’s unincorporated area and cities that have agreed with the Ordinance for the provision of licensing and regulation of ambulance services. Ordinance 3517 also establishes the authority to adjust the maximum Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic Assessment and Transport rate applicable for Orange County Fire Authority’s (OCFA) jurisdictional areas, with the exception of three cities that establish their own ALS rate.

Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) policy #715.00: Ground Emergency Ambulance Service Rates Adjustment identifies the process for annually rate adjustments. Over the past few years, the Board has considered alternatives and on August 8, 2017 passed Board Resolution No. 17-094 which approved the revision of the ambulance rates and adopted the recommended methodology for calculation and application of future annual adjustments. The board authorized the Health Care Agency (HCA) to make an annual adjustment effective **July 1st of each year**. Data is obtained from the US Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) to determine the percentage from the prior year and applied to current rate.

2019 Maximum 911 Emergency Basic Life Support Rates FY 2019-20

Due to the discontinuation of the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Counties “all item” CPI index by the California Department of Industrial Relations, HCA is recommending its replacement to the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim “all item” CPI index in order to adjust the mileage, oxygen, standby and supply rates for 2019 and thereafter. Further, the resolution will include the methodology to adjust the base rate by calculating the percentage adjustment of State or Federal minimum wage increases. The Ambulance Association of Orange County is in agreement with the change to the new CPI methodology.

HCA Recommendation					
Description	2018 Rate	Effects of Minimum Wage¹	CPI % Change²	\$ Increase	2019 Rates (effective 7/1/19)
Emergency Base Rate	\$1,013.84	9.1%		\$92.26	\$1,106.10
Mileage, per mile	\$17.52		3.8%	\$0.67	\$18.19
Oxygen	\$85.91			\$3.26	\$89.17
Standby, per 15 mins.	\$42.09			\$1.60	\$43.69
Expendable Supplies	\$33.91			\$1.29	\$35.20

¹Effects of Minimum Wage (2017-2023)

²CPI (Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim ‘all items’)

March 11, 2019

To: Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN, EMS Administrator
Carl Schultz, MD, EMS Medical Director

From: Eileen Endo, Office Specialist
HCA/Emergency Medical Services 

SUBJECT: Ground Ambulance Rates for FY 2019-20

On August 8, 2017, the Orange County Board of Supervisors issued Board Resolution 17-094. The Board Resolution states

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board adopts a new methodology to adjust the Maximum 911 Emergency Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Rate, effective July 1, 2019, that calculates the percent increase or decrease based on the percentage adjustment of State or Federal approved minimum wage adjustments.”

The Emergency Basic Life Support rate is expected to increase by 9.1%.

“Be it further resolved that the Health Care Agency is authorized to make an annual adjustment to the rates for mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable medical supplies effective July 1 of each year, starting in 2019 by utilizing the Board approved methodology that calculates the percent increase or decrease in the prior year’s Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange “all item” Consumer Price Index (CPI).”

I have been checking the CPI for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County “All Urban Consumers” and noticed that after 2017, there is no longer a CPI listed. There is one for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim. Also, it should be noted that there is a new CPI for Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA. The base starts at 100.000 effective December 2017. This CPI is calculated every two months and not monthly.

Question for Health Care Agency Administrative staff or perhaps County Counsel (since a change in rates needs to be returned to the Board) is should we use the CPI for Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim or the last CPI for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County (even though it has been discontinued)?

The rates are listed below using the CPI for Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim:

Description	Effective 1/1/2018	% increase	\$ increase	Effective 7/1/19
Emergency BLS Base Rate	\$1,013.84	9.1%	\$92.26	\$1,106.10
Mileage	\$17.52	3.8%	0.67	\$18.19
Oxygen	\$85.91	3.8%	3.26	\$89.17
Standby time	\$42.09	3.8%	1.60	\$43.69
Expendable Medical Supplies	\$33.91	3.8%	1.29	\$35.20

The rates are listed below using the CPI for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County as directed under the Board Resolution:

Description	Effective 1/1/2018	% increase	\$ increase	Effective 7/1/19
Emergency BLS Base Rate	\$1,013.84	9.1%	\$92.26	\$1,106.10
Mileage	\$17.52	2.8%	0.49	\$18.01
Oxygen	\$85.91	2.8%	2.40	\$88.31
Standby time	\$42.09	2.8%	1.18	\$43.27
Expendable Medical Supplies	\$33.91	2.8%	0.95	\$34.86

If we continue to use the CPI for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County as directed: This percentage increase will remain the same as this table will not be updated.

Attached please find the documentation regarding minimum wage increases and the CPI tables for the three geographical areas.

/ehe:3456

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

August 8, 2017

WHEREAS, the Health Care Agency is proposing to update the maximum 9-1-1 emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) ground ambulance rates as specified under Article 1 of Division 9 of Title 4 of the Orange County Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved a methodology for calculation and application of future annual adjustments for 9-1-1 emergency Basic Life Support maximum ambulance rates, effective July 1st of each year; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2004, the Health Care Agency was directed by the Board of Supervisors to return annually to the Board to adjust the OCFA ALS paramedic assessment and transport fee by the same percentage change as the maximum emergency BLS rate for the same period, but not to exceed OCFA's actual costs for providing ALS services; and

WHEREAS, this Board conducted a Public Hearing to update the maximum BLS emergency ambulance rates affecting the unincorporated areas of Orange County and the Cities within Orange County that have adopted the County's Ambulance Ordinance, and the maximum ALS paramedic assessment and transport rate applicable to the OCFA jurisdictional areas (excepting San Clemente, Westminster, and Buena Park).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby rescinds Resolution No. 15-120, dated October 27, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board hereby establishes maximum BLS emergency ground ambulance rates, as follows:

Maximum BLS Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates

	2017 Rate	Effective January 1, 2018
(1) Emergency BLS Base Rate	\$965.05	\$1,013.84
(2) Mileage (per patient mile or fraction thereof)	\$ 17.19	\$ 17.52
(3) Oxygen (when determined)	\$ 84.31	\$ 85.91
(4) Standby time (per 15 minutes after the first 15 minutes)	\$ 41.61	\$ 42.09
(5) Expendable medical Supplies (maximum per response)	\$ 33.28	\$ 33.91

Maximum ALS Paramedic Assessment and Transport Rate for OCFA Jurisdictional Areas (excepting San Clemente, Westminster, and Buena Park):

ALS Paramedic Assessment and Transport Rate \$387.35

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board adopts a new methodology to adjust the Maximum 911 Emergency Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Rate, effective July 1, 2019, that calculates the percent increase or decrease based on the percentage adjustment of State or Federal approved minimum wage adjustments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that Health Care Agency is authorized to make annual adjustments to the Maximum 911 Emergency Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Rate effective July 1 of each year, starting in 2019, that calculates the percent increase or decrease based on the percentage adjustment of State or Federal approved minimum wage adjustments.

BE IT Further RESOLVED that Health Care Agency is authorized to make an annual adjustment to the rates for mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable medical supplies effective July 1 of each year, starting in 2019, by utilizing the Board approved methodology that calculates the percent increase or decrease in the prior year's Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County "all item" Consumer Price Index (CPI).

BE IT RESOLVED that Health Care Agency must propose annually the same percentage change as the maximum emergency BLS rate (but not to exceed OCFA's actual costs for providing ALS services) to OCFA regarding an adjustment of the ALS paramedic assessment and transport fee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Health Care Agency may seek this Board's approval of any adjustment to the Maximum 911 Emergency Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Rate and/or the rates for mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable medical supplies that exceeds this Board's approved methodologies.

The foregoing was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, on August 08, 2017, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors: LISA A. BARTLETT, ANDREW DO, TODD SPITZER
SHAWN NELSON, MICHELLE STEEL
NOES: Supervisor(s):
EXCUSED: Supervisor(s):
ABSTAINED: Supervisor(s):


CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, ROBIN STIELER, Clerk of the Board of Orange County, California, hereby certify that a copy of this document has been delivered to the Chairman of the Board and that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Orange County Board of Supervisors

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and seal.




ROBIN STIELER
Clerk of the Board
County of Orange, State of California

Resolution No: 17-094
Agenda Date: 08/08/2017
Item No: 29



I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Orange County, State of California

Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
By: _____
Deputy

New Minimum Wage Phase in Requirement 2017-2023 SB 3

Frequently Asked Questions

The following Frequently Asked Questions guidance is meant to address specific questions relating to [SB 3 \(Leno, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2016\)](#) and how the phase-in of minimum wage rates will apply. For additional information about general questions regarding the Minimum Wage please see the Labor Commissioner’s [Minimum Wage Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

What is the schedule for the new state minimum wage increases created by SB 3 (Leno, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2016)? How will I know what minimum wage rate applies to my workplace?

Date	Minimum Wage for Employers with 25 Employees or Less	Minimum Wage for Employers with 26 Employees or More	% increase in Emergency Base Rate July 1
January 1, 2017	\$10.00/hour	\$10.50/hour	
January 1, 2018	\$10.50/hour	\$11.00/hour	
January 1, 2019	\$11.00/hour	\$12.00/hour	9.1%
January 1, 2020	\$12.00/hour	\$13.00/hour	8.3%
January 1, 2021	\$13.00/hour	\$14.00/hour	7.7%
January 1, 2022	\$14.00/hour	\$15.00/hour	7.1%
January 1, 2023	\$15.00/hour		

Can any of these increases be delayed?

After the first increase on January 1, 2017, the Governor can pause a later scheduled increase for one year if certain economic or budget conditions are met. (These pauses are referred to as “off-ramps”.) The conditions for pausing a scheduled increase are as follows:

- The Governor can pause an increase if the seasonally adjusted statewide job growth for either the prior three or six months is negative and retail sales receipts for the prior 12 months is negative.
- Alternatively, the Governor can pause an increase if it is projected to cause a deficit (defined as a negative operating reserve of more than one percent of annual revenues [currently about \$1.2 billion]) in the current state budget or in the budget forecast for either of the next two fiscal years.*
- On August 1 of each year the Governor will make a preliminary determination on whether the conditions are met for pausing the following year’s increase. A final determination must be made by September 1.

* The budget off-ramp can only be used twice.

How will future increases to the state minimum wage be determined once the minimum wage is \$15 an hour?

After the state minimum wage reaches \$15 an hour for all employees, the rate will be adjusted annually for inflation based on the national consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W). However, the minimum wage cannot be lowered, even if there is a negative CPI, and the highest raise allowed in any one year is 3.5 percent. Also, the Governor will no longer be able to pause a scheduled increase, and the first adjusted increases may be accelerated if the adjusted CPI-W exceeds seven percent in that first year.

