

Hamilton County, Tennessee
Proposed Changes to EMS Billing Rates

	Rates prior to 2012 Change	2012 Approved Percent Increase	HCEMS 2012-Current Rates	Proposed New Rates	Percent Increase for Proposed Change	Rates IF properly adjusted for inflation*	Market Average	Market High
Response fee	\$ 50.00	40%	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	-	\$ 92.00	\$ -	\$ -
BLS	\$ 745.00	45%	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 1,188.00	10.0%	\$ 1,423.00	\$ 768.00	\$ 1,500.00
ALS 1	\$ 926.00	45%	\$ 1,343.00	\$ 1,477.00	10.0%	\$ 1,769.00	\$ 1,012.00	\$ 1,800.00
ALS 2	\$ 1,060.00	40%	\$ 1,484.00	\$ 1,632.00	10.0%	\$ 1,955.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,900.00
Loaded mile	\$ 10.00	100%	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	25.0%	\$ 26.35	\$ 17.76	\$ 26.40

Very basic descriptions:

Response fee – 911 is called, ambulance responds, treats patient on scene but does not transport

BLS – basic life support – transport with no medical procedures

ALS 1 – advanced life support – patients receive ALS assessment, normally an IV and sometimes EKG or oxygen

ALS 2 – advanced life support – patients receive same as ALS 1 plus additional medications and lifesaving medical procedures

*bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

Increased Costs Associated with EMS Service

Drug Costs - sampling of some State-required drugs used on a daily basis

Dextrose 50%	Up 69% from April 2021	Diabetic uses
Epinipherine	Up 235% from April 2021	Cardiac/analphalaxis uses
Sodium bicarbonate	Up 551% from April 2021	Cardiac uses

*due to upcoming privitization of Erlanger Hospital, additional future increase in drug costs is anticipated

Equipment and Operating Costs

Life Pak Cardiac Monitor - required on all 27 ambulance trucks Up 25% since last purchase
Latex Glove usage - increase of over \$87,000 per year since 2020
Biowaste Disposal - up 8% since 2022 (new contract signed)
Fuel Costs - approx. 10% increase over 2012

Ambulance Maintenance Costs

Labor (Lee Smith) increased from \$100/hour to \$159/hour last week
Automotive parts shortage has caused price increase across the board since pandemic

Staffing Costs

Highly competitive market for paramedics and AEMTs utilized by private ambulance services and hospitals
has driven staffing costs higher in recent years to ensure coverage for critical care needs

Call Volume Increase

2015	33,272 calls
2018	37,409 calls
2022	53,507 calls