



## ORDINANCE NO. 28265

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the Licensing Code; amending Chapter 6B.50 of the  
2 Tacoma Municipal Code by amending Section 6B.50.060 to authorize  
3 charges for non-transport-related emergency medical advanced life support  
services, and to establish the 2015 base rate for such services.

4 WHEREAS, due to improvements in emergency care, Advanced Life  
5 Support (“ALS”) providers are more frequently able to stabilize some emergency  
6 medical conditions and provide requisite care without the need to transport  
7 individuals to hospital emergency rooms, and  
8

9 WHEREAS insurance plans increasingly accept non-transport-related ALS  
10 charges to support continuation of the ALS program, and

11 WHEREAS Tacoma Municipal Code (“TMC”) 6B.50.060 authorizes charges  
12 to persons transported for services by a Tacoma Fire Department (“TFD”)  
13 ambulance at rates set by ordinance, with adjustments for cost-of-living increases,  
14 and  
15

16 WHEREAS TFD staff is proposing an amendment to TMC 6B.50.060 to  
17 include charges for non-transport-related emergency medical services, such as  
18 diabetic or asthmatic stabilization, and would establish a 2015 base rate of \$300  
19 for such services, subject to annual cost-of-living adjustments; Now, Therefore,  
20

21 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

22 Section 1. That Chapter 6B.50 of the Tacoma Municipal Code is hereby  
23 amended by amending Section 6B.50.060 as set forth in the attached  
24 Exhibit “A.”  
25  
26



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

Section 2. That the 2015 base rate for said services is \$300, subject to annual cost-of-living adjustments.

Passed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney



## EXHIBIT "A"

1  
2 **6B.50.060 Ambulance service rates.**

3 The following procedures are established for ambulance service to users of the City Fire Department  
4 Advanced Life Support patient transport service:

5 A. Charges to be made.

6 1. Transport. All persons who are transported by a City Fire Department ambulance shall be charged for  
7 all services at the rates as set by ordinance of the City Council, as amended from time to time, provided  
8 that the Tacoma Fire Department may adjust the charges yearly for any cost-of-living adjustment  
9 ("COLA") increases as measured by the Consumer Price Index, Pacific Cities and U.S. City Average for  
10 the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton areas. Rates for services and supplies shall be set to provide for recovery  
11 of actual costs based upon an average charge, which will be reviewed annually. Each person transported  
12 will be billed for all services provided. EMS members and nonmembers will be billed at the same rate.

13 2. Treatment and non-transport. All persons who receive Advanced Life Support ("ALS") medical  
14 treatment by the Tacoma Fire Department and who after treatment decline transportation to a local  
15 hospital shall be charged a non-transport fee. EMS members and nonmembers will be billed at the same  
16 rate. The base rate shall be subject to annual COLA increases in the same manner as the transport rates  
17 set forth in Subsection 1 above.

18 B. EMS membership benefits. By reason of special property tax levies for certain emergency medical  
19 services which are levied against property within the corporate limits of the City or are levied against  
20 property within the corporate limits of a jurisdiction for which the City has assumed contractual EMS  
21 responsibility, each resident of the City and of those contractual jurisdictions signing (by recipient or  
22 authorized representative) an EMS Membership form containing an affirmation of City residency and an  
23 assignment of benefits to the City, together with an appropriate release of medical information, shall  
24 become an EMS member and be entitled to membership benefits as herein provided. An EMS member  
25 receiving transport or ALS treatment and non-transport by a City Fire Department ambulance shall be  
26 deemed to have paid (by reason of the special levy) that portion of the charges incurred which is not  
payable by third parties and insurers, including, but not limited to, any insurance or medical benefits of  
any nature available to such member. This EMS membership benefit of coverage of charges in excess of  
available insurance or medical benefits shall cease when or if:

1. A member ceases to be a resident;
2. A member refuses to provide requested information pertaining to third party coverage or to provide appropriate releases of information and assignment of benefits to the City on forms provided by the City; or
3. Such EMS membership benefit is limited or extinguished by amendment or repeal of this chapter.

C. Nonmembers. Persons receiving transport or ALS treatment and non-transport by City Fire Department ambulances who are not entitled to an EMS membership shall be required to pay all charges incurred. Where practical, the City, in accordance with procedures to be approved by the Director, will, with the authorization of a nonmember receiving transport services, first seek payment of charges incurred from such nonmember's insurance or other medical benefit provider, but such nonmember shall remain fully responsible for any amount due which is not paid by such third parties.

D. Medicare and Medicaid. Eligible recipients of Medicare and Medicaid benefits shall be charged as the result of transport or ALS treatment and non-transport by City Fire Department ambulances at only the maximum rate allowed under the Medicare and Medicaid federal programs, and the City shall accept as payment under the Medicare and Medicaid programs only such maximum amount as the City may collect pursuant to the applicable requirements and guidelines of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.



E. Compliance with Medicare and Medicaid requirements. This chapter and charges for ambulance services hereunder shall be construed and implemented in a manner consistent with applicable requirements of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26