

Ambulance Transport Charges

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Summary Ambulance transport charges, including primary response and inter hospital charges

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AMBULANCE TRANSPORT CHARGES

Charges, including Inter Hospital Charges payable by Area Health Services under the Ambulance Partnership Agreement, are effective on and from 1 July 2005.

- 1 In this policy directive, “**primary response transport**” means an ambulance transport by road ambulance, fixed wing aircraft or helicopter or a combination of these, from the scene of an accident, illness or injury to a public hospital or other destination nominated by the Ambulance Service.

Fees

- 2 The fee for a **primary response transport** by road ambulance and/or fixed wing ambulance and/or helicopter shall be charged on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 5, on the scale of \$169 for the first 16 kilometres or part thereof, plus an additional charge of \$4.34 for each kilometre or part thereof in excess of 16 kilometres, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,066.
- 3 The fee for a transport **by road ambulance and/or fixed wing ambulance (other than a primary response transport)** shall be charged on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 5, on the scale of \$166 for the first 16 kilometres or part thereof, plus an additional charge of \$4.25 for each kilometre or part thereof in excess of 16 kilometres, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$3,991. Charges for inter hospital transfers will be raised against the sending hospital.

The fee for a transport by **helicopter (other than a primary response transport)** shall be calculated on a time basis pursuant to clause 6 and shall be \$1,830 for the first thirty (30) minutes or part thereof, with any further period charged at a rate of \$123 per six (6) minutes or part thereof. This fee shall be apportioned equally between the hospital or health service sending the person being transported and the hospital or health service receiving that person. Such charges form part of the Inter Hospital Ambulance Partnership Agreement negotiated between Area Health Services and the NSW Ambulance Service.

Calculation of Transport Kilometres

- 4 The total number of kilometres for a **transport by ambulance** (or ambulances) shall be calculated by determining the total number of kilometres that are travelled by road or, in the case of transportation by fixed wing aircraft or helicopter, that would have been travelled by road had no fixed wing aircraft or helicopter been available, in accordance with the distance –
 - (a) from the base ambulance station nearest to the location where the person was picked up by ambulance, to that pick up location; and
 - (b) from that pick up location, to the place where that person disembarked from the ambulance (or, where more than one ambulance was used in the transport, disembarked from the last ambulance used in that transport); and
 - (c) from that place of disembarkation, to the base ambulance station referred to in subclause (a).

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Calculation of Transport Time for Helicopters (other than primary response)

- 5 The number of minutes for a **transport by helicopter (other than a primary response transport)** shall be calculated from the time the helicopter engine or engines are turned on, or, if the engines are already on, the time at which the helicopter is dispatched by an air ambulance controller, to the time the helicopter engine or engines are turned off at the helicopter's operational base, or the time at which the helicopter is otherwise dispatched by an air ambulance controller or other authority.

Charging Criteria

- 6 Where two or more persons are transported concurrently by the same ambulance or ambulances, each person shall be charged a fee calculated in accordance with Clauses 2, 3 or 4 as appropriate to that transport.
- 7 Clause 7 shall not apply when two or more persons are transferred concurrently by ambulance (or ambulances) between any public hospital in New South Wales.
- 9 Ambulance attendances at sporting and recreational fixtures are to be on the basis of cost recovery. However, in the cases of primary responses at sporting and recreational fixtures a fee shall be calculated in accordance with Clauses 2 and 5.
- 10 No budget supplementation is available to fund any increased costs resulting from this Circular with such costs to be met from within existing allocations.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- 11 Ambulance Services are GST-free under section 38-10 of the GST Act in all cases where a person is transported as part of their treatment eg primary response and inter hospital transports. Provision of Ambulance attendances at sporting and recreational fixtures (clause 9) are a taxable supply and current rates should be grossed up in accordance with Treasury Circular No. 00/06.

Robyn Kruk
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