

Why Municipalities Should Set Emergency Ambulance Rates

- Municipalities best know how much their EMS system costs based on their geography, demographic, population, etc. No EMS system is the same and requires different resources.
- Municipalities are incentivized to keep price as low as possible while covering cost of EMS. Municipalities do not want insurance premiums to go up and does not want to overly burden residents and visitors with bills for EMS that go beyond covering their cost.
- Citizens hold Municipalities and elected officials accountable for all fees in the city or town.
- Public process that is required holds the Municipality accountable any time rates are going to be changed and controls the price to match the costs. Process is public, open, and transparent.
- Each Municipality has a different cost structure that will drive the rate they set. An EMS call on Nantucket costs more than an EMS call in an urban center. Not unlike how Blue Cross pays much more for procedures at tertiary care centers in comparison to smaller community hospitals.
- Most municipalities already set the rates. A process already exists.
- Treats all EMS emergencies in the Commonwealth the same no matter who provides the service. Rates are set the same way in every municipality and each municipality is able to choose their best and most cost effective way to provide EMS.
- Existing process is clear cut and cannot be manipulated by inaccurate data. No grey areas and the rules are easily understood.
- Blue Cross has essentially already agreed to this process as they have repeatedly stated that their strategy of paying patients directly only applies to private companies and not Municipalities.