



Clinton Township Division of Fire

3820 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43224

614-471-8924 614-475-0023 Fax

ATTENTION CLINTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

The Clinton Township Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Clinton Township Fire Department, has taken formal legislative action to implement billing for Emergency Medical Service **TRANSPORTS** effective June 1, 2002. Billing for EMS transportation is done **PRIMARILY** by billing Medicare and the health insurance companies.

EMS transport billing, while very new to the Columbus area, actually has been quite prevalent throughout the country. Clinton Township Fire Chief Randy Stickle states "Nearly 70% of the country is now touched by EMS transport billing. While the Columbus area has lagged behind, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Dayton all have EMS billing programs. Billing has exploded across Ohio."

Very few residents will be touched by EMS transport billing. Research has shown that only 5% of Clinton Township residents ever call 911 for EMS transport services. Add in the fact that since not everyone who calls for medical assistance is transported to the hospital, it is easy to conclude that less than 5% of the residents will ever be touched by EMS transport billing. Truly, this program will only affect a very small percentage of the Clinton Township residents.

Chief Stickle is also quick to point out that the EMS transport billing program will not effect how the department treats patients in the field. "The patient's insurance status **DOES NOT** affect how our paramedics provide emergency care. In fact, a patient's insurance status is the last concern of our paramedics. We will continue to provide excellent service in the field and our level of service will not be compromised in any way by billing."

And will Clinton Township residents ever receive a bill? Possibly. If the Clinton Township Fire Department transports a patient to the hospital, the department will bill that person's insurance and accept whatever payment the insurance company pays. If the patient has any outstanding co-pays or if the resident does not have any insurance at all, a bill will be sent to the patient.

However, Clinton Township will be applying what is known as a "soft billing" practice towards unpaid balances. Every patient who receives a bill for unpaid balances will receive up to 3 bills and at the end of the 3-bill cycle, Clinton Township will not pursue any other action. Unpaid balances will not be sent to a collection agency nor will anything be done to affect a person's credit rating. The department will simply be happy to receive whatever we can at the end of the billing cycle and move on.

As to driving up insurance rates, studies have shown that insurance rates are not affected by EMS transport billing. When you consider that the overwhelming majority of Ohio now bills for EMS transportation and the increasing costs of insurance items and services such as prescription drugs and increased medical technology costs, it is easy to conclude that the addition of EMS transport services in the Columbus region will not drive up insurance costs at all.



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In conclusion, the Chief is excited about the prospects of EMS transport billing. "This is a definite "win-win" for us all. EMS transport billing will no doubt have a positive impact on our department and the community. We will be able to add funding to the department without going back to our citizens for a tax increase. With so few of our residents even effected, I see the effort as a truly positive program. The additional funds that we will realize as a department will enable us to improve our service to the community by upgrading equipment, enhancing training, and possibly adding personnel. **Anything we can do to save lives is worth our while; EMS transport billing will definitely help us to save lives."**

The Clinton Township Board of Trustees and the Division of Fire continue to be committed to this community and the service that we provide to the residents. We provide paramedics and firefighters to the area 24 hours a day. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact Fire Chief Randy Stickle or Assistant Fire Chief John Harris at 475-0022.