A CITIZEN’S GUIDE TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AMBULANCE FEES

Lynnwood Fire Department

Your Health is Our First Priority

Every minute counts when you’re faced with a medical emergency. If you feel you need medical attention, don't hesitate, dial 9-1-1. Our highly trained Firefighters/ Paramedics are just a phone call away.

Why is the City of Lynnwood billing for Emergency Medical Services?

To generate revenue that will support the Fire Department services provided by the City. Billing for Emergency Medical Services is a basic user fee. A user fee only affects those individuals who use the service, including non-residents. After reviewing several alternatives, this method generated the most interest since it increased revenues without affecting the entire population like a property tax.

How will this affect me?

As a resident of the City of Lynnwood or if you are employed in the City of Lynnwood, you will NOT be responsible for any direct payment of ambulance fees. The City will accept whatever (if any) amount your insurance company or Medicare pays on your behalf. You will be asked to sign the Lynnwood Fire Department’s EMS signature form that will authorize us to collect directly all insurance benefits for services provided, and to obtain/release any medical information necessary to process the claim.

Will Medicare cover the ambulance/transportation fee?

Medicare has a maximum amount they will pay for ambulance fees. You may also have Medicare Supplemental Insurance, which would cover any fees not paid by Medicare. We are required by law to accept the Medicare allowable amount and cannot bill for the difference between the allowable and the established fee.

Will I be charged if I call for Medical Services but don't go to the hospital?

No. The established fees are for providing the service of transporting patients to Swedish Edmonds.

Can I still be taken to the hospital of my choice?

Absolutely, however, if you choose to go to a different hospital outside the local area, a private ambulance will be called. The choice will be yours, unless the urgent need arises to transport you to the nearest hospital.
How can I afford the Emergency Medical Service transport fees?

Our billing program accepts the fact that you, as a resident of the City of Lynnwood, already contribute to EMS through taxes and you will not be responsible for any fees not covered by insurance. A “Request for Information” form may be sent to you regarding your primary and/or secondary insurance. Simply make the necessary changes/corrections so that we may submit a claim for payment on your behalf. Again, residents will not be responsible for any unpaid balances. It is our intent that the ambulance fees should have a minimal impact on citizens. Your health is our first priority.

The financial details are secondary to your need for medical attention. We realize that you may have no insurance. Please rest assured that no one will be denied medical attention because of their inability to pay the ambulance/transportation fees.

How has my Service Delivery changed?

The quality EMS service you have always received from the Lynnwood Fire Department will continue. Our emergency units are staffed with highly trained and experienced paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMT).

In addition, the same personnel are also trained firefighters, capable of responding to fire incidents in fire engines or ladder trucks as needed to maintain adequate fire protection coverage.

Who uses Emergency Medical Services?

Lynnwood’s Emergency Medical Services are available to anyone who needs medical attention. The Lynnwood Fire Department has averaged 5000 responses for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) each year for the past three years. Of those responses, more than 2000 people required transport to a hospital.

What other area communities currently bill for Emergency Medical Services?

All Fire Departments in Snohomish County bill for EMS transport services, including nearby Everett and Snohomish County Fire District 1.

If you have questions, please call the Lynnwood Fire Department at 425-670-5304.