

 Government of Saskatchewan	Policy & Procedure Manual	Status:	Current
			Effective Date:
		Updated:	October 14, 2022
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Approved By:	Acute and Emergency Services Branch	Branch Contact:	787-0228
Section:	Acute and Emergency Services		
Title:	GROUND AMBULANCE FEES POLICY		

INTENT:

The intent of this policy is to establish the maximum allowable rates to be charged by ground ambulance services based in Saskatchewan, for ground ambulance service.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:

The Ambulance Act, Section 43(a)
The Ambulance Regulations, Part II

RELATED GUIDELINES (Links):

Establishing an ACP Ground Ambulance Service

POLICY:

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) determines, within the maximum rates (fee ceilings) established by the Province, ambulance fees for ground ambulance operators based within their locations.

1. The maximum allowable rates for ground ambulance services for Saskatchewan residents effective August 1, 2021 are as follows effective:
 - (a) For ambulance services based in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Nipawin, Spiritwood, Kelvington, Canora, Yorkton, Rosthern, Humboldt, Wadena, Wakaw, Wynyard, La Ronge, Kamsack, Fort Qu'Appelle, Weyburn and St. Walburg:
 - maximum basic pick-up charge of \$325 per call
 - maximum kilometer charge of \$2.30 per km*
 - waiting time charges of \$100 per hour, with no charge for the first half hour.
 - Other ground ambulance services may be eligible to access this higher pick-up charge, based on the criteria of providing 24/7 advanced care paramedic (ACP) service and meeting the SHA's priorities for enhancements to emergency medical services. The procedure for moving to an ACP service can be found in the policy: "Establishing an ACP Ground Ambulance Service".

(b) For all other areas of the province:

- maximum basic pick-up charge of \$245 per call
- maximum kilometer charge of \$2.30 per km*
- waiting time charges of \$100 per hour, with no charge for the first half hour.

(c) The Ministry of Health has programs in place to assist Saskatchewan residents with the cost of ground ambulance services, including such programs as the Senior Citizen's Ambulance Assistance Program, the Supplementary Health Program, and the Children's Benefit Program. Details of these programs can be found in the "It's For Your Benefit" brochure, which can be accessed online at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/prescription-drug-plans-and-health-coverage/health-benefits-coverage/qualifying-for-health-benefits>

2. The maximum allowable rates for ground ambulance services for out of province or out of country residents effective July 1, 2011 are as follows:

- maximum basic pick-up charge of \$360 per call
- maximum kilometer charge of \$3.05 per km*
- waiting time charges of \$100 per hour, with no charge for the first half hour.

3. Rates for other services (e.g. stand-by time and incomplete calls) as set out in *The Ambulance Regulations* are determined by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and are subject to prior approval by the Minister.

4. Rates for First Nation patients are negotiated between Indigenous Services Canada and the ambulance service and are not subject to approval by the Minister.

*Kilometer charges will not be charged on calls located within the community where the ambulance service resides.

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Approved By	Dave Morhart	Branch Contact	Acute and Emergency Services 787-0228