

## FACT SHEET

September 12, 2007

BC Ambulance Service

### FEES CHANGED FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN B.C.

On October 1, 2007, the BC Ambulance Service will implement a fairer, more streamlined fee structure to ensure most patients pay the same for ambulance transport in B. C., regardless of distance travelled, and to eliminate fees for even more low income individuals.

A flat fee of \$80 will replace the existing fee structure of \$54 for the first 40 kilometres and 50 cents per kilometre after to a maximum of \$274 for both ground and air ambulance service. With these changes, the provincial government will receive the same revenue it does under the current plan.

The fee structure will be streamlined by:

- eliminating fees for approximately 72,000 inter-hospital patient transfers,
- eliminating approximately 68,000 bills for MSP Premium Assistance recipients for ambulance services, similar to those on income assistance who are not currently billed,
- eliminating the \$50 fee for copies of patient care documents, and

Fees will be increased for non-Medical Services Plan (MSP) beneficiaries, including visitors to B.C and employers when an employee is injured at work, to better reflect the cost of providing service.

#### BC Ambulance Service Fees

	Current Fee	Fee effective October 1, 2007
<b>MSP Beneficiaries</b>	\$54 for the first 40 km, plus 50 cents for each additional km to a maximum of \$274 for ground or air ambulance	\$80 flat fee, no additional mileage charge for either ground or air transport
<b>MSP Premium Assistance Clients</b>	\$54 plus mileage	\$0
<b>Non-MSP Beneficiaries</b> (including visitors to B.C. and employers when an employee is injured at work)	Ground service - \$396 Helicopter service - \$2,400/hr. Airplane service - \$6/statute/mile	Ground service: \$530 Helicopter service: \$2,746/hr. Airplane service: \$7/statute mile
<b>Inter-hospital Transfers (once admitted, between hospitals)</b>	\$54 plus mileage	\$0
<b>Inter-facility Transfers (between care home and hospital)</b>	\$54 plus mileage	\$80 flat fee

Ambulance services are not an insured benefit under MSP or the *Canada Health Act*. The ambulance fees for MSP beneficiaries were last increased in 1998.

Public enquiries and bill payments can be directed to:

Ambulance Billing Department, Emergency and Health Services Commission  
PO Box 9676 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9P7

Phone: 1-800-665-7199 or 250-952-1921

Information regarding the appeal process for ambulance bills is available on the Internet at:  
[www.health.gov.bc.ca/bcas/fees/appeal/index.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/bcas/fees/appeal/index.html).