

## **Press Release**

Beginning July 1, 2011, Greene County will begin an EMS Billing Recovery Program. Citizens transported by the rescue squad will be charged for the ambulance transport provided. These charges will be billed directly to the patient's medical insurance, such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Private Insurance Plans. Most insurance policies including Medicare and Medicaid will cover the expenses of a medically necessary ambulance transport.

**Patient care will continue to be the most important issue at hand when a citizen calls 911. A patient will never be denied services based on their ability to pay or lack of health insurance.**

When a citizen is transported by the rescue squad, the crew members may request from the patient, family member or hospital additional insurance information. If this information is not available at the time of transport, the patient may be contacted by the billing agency to obtain this information in order to facilitate the billing process.

Greene County has made the decision to implement this program to help defray some of the cost of providing emergency ambulance transports. We feel this program will be beneficial to the citizens as it will allow the county to continue to maintain the same quality of emergency services.

If you have questions regarding the EMS Billing Recovery Program, you may contact Patti Vogt, Assistant to the County Administrator, at 434-985-5201. If you have questions regarding a patient invoice, you may contact our billing agency directly at (800) 814-5339.

***What is an EMS Billing Recovery Program?***

Medicare, Medicaid, and most Private Insurance Plans cover emergency ambulance transports. The reimbursement received from the EMS Billing Recovery Program will be used to help provide contracted staff, equipment and supplies necessary to continue to provide emergency services to the community.

***How will this affect the services received?***

Patient care will continue to be the most important issue at hand when a citizen calls 911. A patient will never be denied services based on their ability to pay or lack of health insurance.

Once the patient is stabilized, the crew member may request insurance information from the patient, family member or staff at the hospital in order to facilitate the billing process. If information can not be obtained at the time of service, you may be contacted by the billing agency to request additional insurance information.

***What are the charges for ambulance transport?***

Basic Life Support, Emergency	\$450.00
Advanced Life Support, Emergency	\$650.00
A2 - ALS Comprehensive Transport	\$725.00
Mileage	\$ 8.00

***If I have health insurance, what will my out-of-pocket expenses be?***

As a resident of Greene County, there will be no out-of-pocket expenses for transport.