

**MAYVILLE
AREA AMBULANCE**



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Date: July 2, 2021
From: Joel Welke, EMT-B, Chief Financial Officer
RE: ALS Intercept Billing

Mayville Area Ambulance Service (MAAS) is a Basic Life Support (BLS) agency. In certain cases, a second ambulance that provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) services may respond along with our agency. When that happens, depending upon the insurance provider/payer for the patient involved, the charges for both ambulances would be combined and billed, with MAAS then paying the ALS provider for their portion. For that arrangement to work, both ambulance agencies are required to have a written agreement in place.

Effective July 1, 2021 MAAS no longer has an agreement with Mobile Medical Response (MMR). Prior to this date there was an ALS agreement in place between MMR and MAAS for many years. On May 27, 2021, MMR provided MAAS with a written notice that they elect to terminate the agreement on June 30, 2021, and requested MAAS enter into a new agreement that would have increased the cost to MAAS by **266%** per patient encounter.

After thorough review of the financial impact of this new agreement it was determined that the increase would have been fatally detrimental to Mayville Ambulance. In light of that, the Board of Directors made the decision to not enter into the new agreement as it would have potentially led to the closing of MAAS – leaving you and your family's access to ambulance transport and emergency care in jeopardy.

Without an agreement in place, in the event that MMR provided ALS services to a patient that MAAS is treating and/or transporting, they will need to bill the patient direct for these services. Should you receive a bill from MMR, you will need to check with your insurance carrier as to if/how the bill can be processed and/or paid. **MAAS will continue to directly bill and work with your insurance for any charges and payments.** We realize this may cause some confusion or frustration. If you have questions regarding your bill, please feel free to contact our billing agency.

This change will not affect ambulance response, services, or patient care that is provided by MAAS.

Please note that this issue stems from the much larger issue of the inadequacy of funding for EMS in Michigan, and across the country. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed many Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies to their breaking point. During the pandemic, Michigan alone has lost at least 10 ambulance services. We urge you to contact your local, State, and Federal representatives to show your support for EMS. For more information, please visit <https://www.miambulance.org/page/saveEMS> or <https://www.ems1.com/legislation-funding/articles/mich-ems-leaders-put-out-urgent-call-for-state-lawmakers-to-fund-ambulance-services-4KrYfTAsrC51vZWA/>.