

Treat and Refer Fee Report

Surprise Fire-Medical Department

The Surprise Fire-Medical Department is requesting the adoption of the Treat and Refer Fee in the amount of \$203.80. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) , Bureau of EMS and Trauma (BEMST) System, established the Treat and Refer Recognition Program which is the result of months of collaboration between ADHS, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and various participating EMS stakeholders.

AHCCCS Fee-For-Service (FFS) has proposed and published the same rate of \$203.80 for treat and refer services to go into effect beginning October 1, 2016 for any agency that registers as a participating Treat and Refer provider. SFMD plans to register as a Treat and Refer provider. The department is already providing this service at no cost to the citizens. These services do not need to be provided by an ambulance but can be provided by any responding emergency apparatus such as SFMD currently does with their engines, ladders and ladder tenders. Currently, SFMD is providing these services citywide in all first due areas as needed from all apparatus. This program would allow the department the opportunity to invoice AHCCCS covered patients for supplies and services rendered on scene at the proposed rate. Such patients may be diabetic or asthmatic patients that needed immediate treatments with medications, IV's or supplies but not necessarily transportation to a hospital. The program does have protocols that would need to be adhered to as well as training requirements but the department is already meeting these criteria with current ongoing educational requirements for EMT's and Paramedics. The program also requires the participating agency be at "Premiere EMS Agency" status by DHS to which SFMD currently is. The Arizona Treat and Refer Program is a safe, monitored, community specific and clinically grounded effort to enhance the healthcare initiatives statewide. If other insurance carriers enroll in the program in the future, SFMD will be poised to also bill for these services.

Purpose for the Program and the Fee:

- Recognize EMS agencies that demonstrate optimal patient safety and quality of care by matching treatment, transport, and care destination options to the needs of the patient.
- Provide EMS agencies the opportunity to seek cost recovery in the form of billing AHCCCS plan administrators for treat and refer services.

Currently SFMD's payor mix in their ground ambulance program has 20.2% AHCCCS patients. In 2015, that would have resulted in approximately 194 patients or \$39,537.20 that could have been used to offset the medical supply costs used on those calls as well as some of the operational costs. SFMD will only recover what AHCCCS has approved so we would like to adopt this fee to be able to take advantage of the program early in its inception. SFMD currently has all the requirements and services in place as they have been providing this service for years; AHCCCS has just not had a previously approved fee structure in place to reimburse for the services. We have included the rates as they are dictated by ADHS per below to ensure flexibility should the patient be referred to another agency other than a hospital in the future.

Description	Fee
Response and Treatment, No Transport	\$203.80
Treat at home, refer to PCP/specialist	\$203.80
Treat at home, refer to Crisis Response	\$203.80
Treat at home, refer to BH Provider	\$203.80
Treat at home, refer to Urgent Care	\$203.80

Additional information on the Arizona Treat and Refer Program can be obtained at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/NewProviders/treatandrefer.html>