

9/11/2007

To: McLean Count Area Ems Providers

From: Deputy Chief Shanks  
Bloomington Fire Department

RE: Requests for ALS Mutual Aid

With the departure of LLMM our Department has begun to receive requests for ALS mutual aid. To date, our Department has been able to respond to all the requests we have received. However, we do have limited ALS resources and in order to maximize the effectiveness of these limited resources we requests agencies requesting mutual aid do so consistent with the following:

1. Our Department does not currently have adequate ALS resources to respond to every Charlie, Delta and Echo call outside the City of Bloomington. We request that agencies not request mutual aid until they have established that the patient requires ALS care. In most instances this means agencies should not make the request for ALS mutual aid until that agency has made patient contact and assessed the patient's condition. The exception to the foregoing would be instances where there is additional information that clearly indicates the need for ALS i.e. report of cardiac arrest where CPR is in progress.
2. Agencies must specify what type of resources they are requesting. Agencies either an "ALS chase vehicle" or an "ALS transporting ambulance." All requests should be made to Metcom who will then forward the request to Bloomington Dispatch. All communications between the requesting agency and the responding Bloomington Fire Department unit should be done on "McLean County EMS"
3. Agencies requesting the ALS chase vehicle will be requested to provide a crew member to drive the ALS chase vehicle to the receiving hospital. If no crew member is available the transporting agency will be responsible for taking our Paramedic back to the ALS chase vehicle following the completion of the transport.
4. Agencies should be aware that by requesting ALS mutual aid they are agreeing to reimburse the City of Bloomington at the rates set by City Ordinance. Those rates are listed below:

ALS	203.50
ALS 2*	294.50

\* ALS 2 applicable when at least three medications are administer OR at least one of the following procedures is performed: Manual defib/cardoconversion; endotracheal intubation; central venous line; cardiac pacing; chest decompression; surgical airway; intraosseous line. Dextrose, normal saline, and Ringer's lactate are NOT medications for the

purpose of the “three medication “rule and neither are oxygen or aspirin. Also, medications must be administered by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion to count towards the “three medication “rule.

The rates above are applicable where care is provided by our personnel on board other agencies transporting ambulances. The City may not bill the patient and therefore must bill the requesting agency. Also, payment is due irrespective of the amount the patient is billed or amount collected by the requesting agency.

In instances where ALS mutual aid is provide and the patient is transported in a Bloomington Fire Department ambulance, our department will bill the patient.

5. Agencies may wish enter into a billing agreement with the City. By entering into a billing agreement with the City, transporting agencies may then bill the patient for ALS transports. Agencies interested in entering into such agreements or agencies with any questions please contact:

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