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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1997

Order fixing a scale of fees in respect of Ambulance Services

PURSUANT to section 67D of the Health Services Act 1997, I, Professor DEBORA PICONE, AM, Director-General of the Department of Health, as the duly appointed delegate of the Minister for Health, do by this order hereby:

1. revoke the currently applying scale of fees in respect of ambulance services; and
2. fix a scale of fees in respect of ambulance services provided by the Director-General to the extent and in the manner set forth in the following Schedule, with effect on and from 1 July 2009.

DEBORA PICONE, AM,
Director-General

SCHEDULE

1 In this order:

- “**primary emergency service**” means the provision of ambulance services by road ambulance, fixed wing aircraft or helicopter or a combination of these, from the scene of an accident, illness or injury to a public hospital or other destination nominated by the Ambulance Service of NSW.
- “**primary non-emergency service**” means an ambulance road service that is booked no later than 6pm on the day prior to service delivery with the service to commence and be completed between the hours of 8am and 6pm on the nominated service delivery date, otherwise the primary emergency service charge will apply. [All services provided by a dedicated Patient Transport vehicle, where available, irrespective of time of booking or time of transport, are classified as “non-emergency services”].

- “**inter-hospital emergency service**” means the provision of ambulance services by road ambulance, fixed wing aircraft or helicopter or a combination of these, from one public hospital to another public hospital.
- “**inter-hospital non-emergency service**” means an ambulance road service that is booked no later than 6pm on the day prior to service delivery with the service to commence and be completed between the hours of 8am and 6pm on the nominated service delivery date, otherwise the inter-hospital emergency service charge will apply. [All services provided by a dedicated Patient Transport vehicle, where available, irrespective of time of booking or time of transport, are classified as “non-emergency services”].
- “**treat-not-transport service**” – means a service where a patient is provided with ambulance services at the scene of an accident, illness or injury and does not require ambulance transport to a health facility or any other destination.
- “**standby services**” – means a service where an ambulance or ambulances are required to stand by at scenes such as industrial accidents for the purpose of providing services to emergency workers or others at the scene of the incident. Neither transport nor treatment may be required.

Fees

- 2 The fee for a **primary emergency service** by road ambulance and/or fixed wing ambulance and/or helicopter shall be charged on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 8, on the scale of \$590 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$5.33 for each kilometre or part thereof.
- 3 The fee for a **primary non-emergency service** by road ambulance shall be charged on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 8, on the scale of \$237 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$1.47 for each kilometre or part thereof.
- 4 The fee for an **inter-hospital emergency service** by ambulance shall be charged as follows:
 - road ambulance - on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 8, on the scale of \$510 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$5.09 for each kilometre or part thereof.
 - fixed wing ambulance - on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 8, on the scale of \$3,143 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$1.47 for each kilometre or part thereof (road travel associated with fixed wing cases is charged at the \$5.09 for each kilometre or part thereof).
 - helicopter - on a time basis calculated pursuant to clause 9 on the scale of \$5,396 charge for the first thirty (30) minutes or part thereof, with any further period charged at a rate of \$118.09 per six (6) minutes or part thereof.

Charges for road or fixed wing transport under this clause shall be paid by the hospital or health service sending the person being transported. However in the case of helicopter transport under this clause, the transport fee shall be apportioned equally between the hospital or health service sending the person being transported and the hospital or health service receiving that person.
- 5 The fee for an **inter-hospital non-emergency service** by ambulance shall be charged as follows:
 - road ambulance - on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 8, on the scale of \$234 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$1.44 for each kilometre or part thereof.
- 6 The fee for a **treat-not-transport service** shall be calculated in accordance with the primary emergency service fee scale under clause 2.

- 7 A **standby service fee**, payable by the owners of premises or vehicles involved in dangerous incidents or events where an ambulance is required to be present (for example at chemical spills or other industrial accidents), shall be calculated in accordance with:
- the primary emergency service fee scale under clause 2 for the first hour or part thereof; and in addition
 - \$42.50 for every 15 minutes or part thereof after the first hour.

Calculation of Transport Kilometres

- 8 The total number of kilometres for the provision of services by ambulance (or ambulances) shall be calculated by determining the total number of kilometres that are travelled by road or, in the case of transportation by fixed wing aircraft or helicopter, that would have been travelled by road had no fixed wing aircraft or helicopter been available, in accordance with the distance –
- (a) from the base ambulance station nearest to the location where the person was picked up/treated by ambulance, to that pick up/treatment location; and
 - (b) from that pick up location (where transport occurs), to the place where that person disembarked from the ambulance (or, where more than one ambulance was used in the transport, disembarked from the last ambulance used in that transport); and
 - (c) from that place of disembarkation/location of treatment, to the base ambulance station referred to in subclause (a).

Calculation of Transport Time for Helicopters (Inter-hospital)

- 9 The number of minutes for a **service by helicopter (other than a primary response service)** shall be calculated from the time the helicopter engine or engines are turned on, or, if the engines are already on, the time at which the helicopter is dispatched by an air ambulance controller, to the time the helicopter engine or engines are turned off at the helicopter's operational base, or the time at which the helicopter is otherwise dispatched by an air ambulance controller or other authority.

Charging criteria

- 10 Where **two or more** persons are transported/treated concurrently by the same ambulance or ambulances, each person shall be charged a fee calculated in accordance with clauses 2 (but subject to clause 12), 3 (but subject to clause 13) or 6 as appropriate to the class of the transport used as defined under clause 1.
- 11 Clause 10 shall not apply when **two or more** persons are transferred concurrently by ambulance (or ambulances) between any public hospitals in New South Wales as part of an inter-hospital emergency service or an inter-hospital non-emergency service as defined under clause 1, but subject to the operation of clauses 14 and 15.
- 12 Residents of NSW shall be charged at a rate of 51% of the rate set under this order for a primary emergency service under clause 2, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,938.
- 13 Residents of NSW shall be charged for primary non-emergency services in accordance with clause 3, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,938.
- 14 Public hospitals in NSW shall be charged for inter-hospital emergency services in accordance with clause 4, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,772 in relation to road ambulance and fixed wing ambulance transport.
- 15 Public hospitals in NSW shall be charged for inter-hospital non-emergency services in accordance with clause 5, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,772.

HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1997

Order amending the scale of fees for Hospital and Other Health Services

Pursuant to section 69 of the Health Services Act 1997, I, Professor DEBORA PICONE, AM, Director-General of the Department of Health, as the duly appointed delegate of the Minister for Health, do by this order hereby amend the currently applying Scale of Fees for hospital services and other health services to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Schedule below to take effect on and from 1 July 2009.

DEBORA PICONE, AM,
Director-General

SCHEDULE

Delete in its entirety “**Part 5 – NSW NEWBORN AND PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY TRANSPORT SERVICES (NETS) CHARGES**” and insert instead the following matter:

PART 5 – NSW NEWBORN AND PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY TRANSPORT SERVICES (NETS) CHARGES

5.1 This Part sets out the charges for services provided by the unit of Sydney West Area Health Service known as NSW newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS). For the purposes of this Part 5 only the following terms are defined:

“**inter-hospital emergency service**” means the provision of NETS services by road, fixed wing aircraft or helicopter or a combination of these, from a public hospital to another public hospital;

“**primary emergency service**” means the provision of NETS services by road, fixed wing aircraft or helicopter or a combination of these, from a private hospital to a public hospital or other destination nominated by NETS.

Fees

5.2 The fee for a **primary emergency service** by road and/or fixed wing service and/or helicopter shall be charged on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to paragraph 5.4, on the scale of \$590 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$5.33 for each kilometre or part thereof.

5.3 The fee for an **inter-hospital emergency service** by NETS shall be charged as follows:

5.3.1 road service - on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to paragraph 5.4, on the scale of \$510 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$5.09 for each kilometre or part thereof.

5.3.2 fixed wing service - on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to paragraph 5.4, on the scale of \$3,143 callout charge, plus an additional charge of \$1.47 for each kilometre or part thereof (road travel associated with fixed wing cases is charged at the rate of \$5.09 for each kilometre or part thereof).

5.3.3 helicopter service - on a time basis calculated pursuant to paragraph 5.5 on the scale of \$5,396 charge for the first thirty (30) minutes or part thereof, with any further period charged at a rate of \$118.09 per six (6) minutes or part thereof.

Charges for road or fixed wing transport under this clause shall be paid by the hospital or health service sending the person being transported. However in the case of helicopter transport under this clause, the transport fee shall be apportioned equally between the hospital or health service sending the person being transported and the hospital or health service receiving that patient.

Calculation of Transport Kilometres

- 5.4 The total number of kilometres for the provision of NETS services shall be calculated by determining the total number of kilometres that are travelled by road or, in the case of transportation by fixed wing aircraft or helicopter that would have been travelled by road had no fixed wing aircraft or helicopter been available, in accordance with the distance:
- 5.4.1 from the NETS base nearest to the location where the patient was picked up or treated by the NETS service; and
 - 5.4.2 from that pick up location (where transport occurs), to the place where that patient disembarked from the NETS transport; and
 - 5.4.3 from that place of disembarkation (or where no transport occurs, from the treatment location), back to the NETS base referred to in subclause 5.4.1.

Calculation of Transport Time for Helicopters (Inter-hospital emergency services only)

- 5.5 The number of minutes for a NETS service by helicopter for the purposes of clause 5.3.3 shall be calculated from the time the helicopter engine or engines are turned on, or, if the engines are already on, the time at which the helicopter is dispatched by an air ambulance controller, to the time the helicopter engine or engines are turned off at the helicopter's operational base, or the time at which the helicopter is otherwise dispatched by an air ambulance controller or other authority.

Charging Criteria

- 5.6 Where **two or more** patients are transported/treated concurrently by the same NETS primary emergency service, each patient shall be charged a fee calculated in accordance with clause 5.2 but subject to the operation of clause 5.8.
- 5.7 Paragraph 5.6 shall not apply when two or more patients are transferred concurrently by the same NETS service between any public hospitals in New South Wales, as part of an inter-hospital emergency service, but subject to the operation of clauses 5.3 and 5.9.
- 5.8 Residents of NSW shall be charged at a rate of 51% of the rate for a primary emergency service under clause 5.2 of this order, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,938.
- 5.9 Public hospitals in NSW shall be charged for inter-hospital emergency services in accordance with clause 5.3 of this order, provided that such total fee shall not exceed \$4,772 in relation to road and fixed wing services transport.

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