



**TO: Jesse Anderson
Oregon Health Authority**

**FR: Dan Brattain
President
Oregon State Ambulance Association**

RE: Include allowances for ALS1 base rate payments for EMS telemedicine services in forthcoming SPA Application

The Oregon State Ambulance Association, Oregon’s only statewide association encompassing all kinds of EMS providers, is requesting that the pending telemedicine SPA includes allowances for an Advance Life Support (ALS) 1 base rate payment to ambulance services where a paramedic responds to a patient in their home, completes an exam and a corresponding consult with a qualified provider over phone or other means, but the patient remains at home without transport.

As we see case counts of COVID-19 continue to rise, we see the strain on our EMS system increase in tandem— as well as the need to keep patients in their homes and out of hospitals whenever possible. Paramedics stand to play a critical role in this effort, but need to be reimbursed adequately to provide these services—especially given the substantial resources required to respond to each call.

The OSAA estimates that response to a call like the above will take an hour or more from start to finish, and will require a two person crew and their PPE, an ambulance or EMS vehicle, dispatch time, as well as the regular necessary equipment. Additional crews on the ground are also necessary to cover other calls that come in while the extended response for a COVID-19 patient is occurring.

Additionally, since COVID-19 is following infections disease protocols, additional time and resources are needed after responding to the call to allow for thorough decontamination. These combined costs in equipment, personnel and time far exceed the normal course of business as well as the current rate offered for telemedicine community care.

Thank you for your consideration. Allowing the ALS1 base rate to apply will increase access to telemedicine services and will also serve to decrease the strain on our hospital system.

Respectfully,
Dan Brattain
President
Oregon State Ambulance Association

Members:

- AirLink Critical Care Transport
- AMR Josephine County
- AMR Portland
- Ashland Fire & Rescue
- Bay Cities Ambulance
- Bend Fire Department
- CAL-ORE Life Flight
- Canby Fire District
- Eugene Fire & EMS
- Clackamas Fire District # 1
- Douglas County Fire District #2
- Falck Northwest
- Jefferson County EMS District
- Klamath County Fire District
- La Grande Fire & EMS
- Lebanon Fire District
- Life Flight Network
- Medix Ambulance Service
- Med Transport Inc.
- Mercy Flights Air & Ground Ambulance
- Metro West Ambulance
- Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue
- Pacific West Ambulance
- REACH Air Medical Services
- Santiam Hospital Ambulance
- Springfield Fire & Life Safety
- South Lane County Fire & Rescue
- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- Western Lane Ambulance District
- Woodburn Ambulance Service

Associate Members:

- Braun Northwest, Inc.
- Ferno EMS
- Medic-CE
- PeaceHealth/Sacred Heart
- Umpqua Insurance Agency
- Wakefield Associates

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- President, Dan Brattain
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