

TABLE 1**2002 FEE SCHEDULE FOR PAYMENT OF AMBULANCE SERVICES**

| Service level | RVUs | CF | Unadjusted base rate (UBR)+ | Amount adjusted by GPCI (70% of UBR) | Amount not adjusted (30% of UBR) | Loaded mileage | Rural ground mileage (miles 1-17) | Rural ground mileage (miles 18-50)* |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| BLS | 1.00 | 170.54 | \$170.54 | \$121.65 | \$52.14 | \$5.47 | \$8.21 | \$6.84 |
| BLS-Emergency | 1.60 | 170.54 | 272.86 | 191.00 | 81.86 | 5.47 | 8.21 | 6.84 |
| ALS1 | 1.20 | 170.54 | 204.65 | 143.26 | 61.40 | 5.47 | 8.21 | 6.84 |
| ALS1-Emergency | 1.90 | 170.54 | 324.03 | 226.82 | 97.21 | 5.47 | 8.21 | 6.84 |
| ALS2 | 2.75 | 170.54 | 468.99 | 328.29 | 140.70 | 5.47 | 8.21 | 6.84 |
| SCT | 3.25 | 170.54 | 554.26 | 387.98 | 166.28 | 5.47 | 8.21 | 6.84 |
| PI | 1.75 | 170.54 | 298.45 | 208.91 | 89.54 | (1) No Mileage Rate | | |

| Service level | Unadjusted base rate (UBR) | Amount adjusted by GPCI (50% of UBR) | Amount not adjusted (50% of UBR) | Rural air base rate** | Loaded mileage | Rural air mileage*** |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| FW | \$2,314.51 | \$1,157.26 | \$1,157.26 | \$3,471.77 | \$6.57 | \$9.86 |
| RW | 2,690.96 | 1,345.48 | 1,345.48 | 4,036.44 | 17.51 | 26.27 |

* A 50 percent add-on to the mileage rate (that is, a rate of \$8.21 per mile) for each of the first 17 miles identified as rural. A 25 percent add-on to the mileage rate (that is, a rate of \$6.84 per mile) for miles 18 through 50 identified as rural. The regular mileage allowance applies for every mile over 50 miles.

** A 50 percent add-on to the air base rate is applied to air trips identified as rural.

*** A 50 percent add-on to the air mileage rate is applied to every mile identified as rural.

The payment rate for rural air ambulance (rural air mileage rate and rural air base rate) is 50 percent more than the corresponding payment rate for urban services (that is, the sum of the base rate adjusted by the geographic adjustment factor and the mileage).

+ This column illustrates the payment rates without adjustment by the GPCI. The conversion factor (CF) has been inflated for CY 2002.

Legend for Table 1

ALS1 - Advanced Life Support, Level 1

ALS2 - Advanced Life Support, Level 2

BLS - Basic Life Support

CF - Conversion Factor

FW - Fixed Wing

GPCI - Practice Expense Portion of the Geographic Practice Cost Index from the Physician

Fee Schedule

PI - Paramedic ALS Intercept

RVUs - Relative Value Units

RW - Rotary Wing

SCT - Specialty Care Transport

UBR - Unadjusted Base Rate

FORMULAS--The amounts in the above chart are used in the following formulas to determine the fee schedule payments--

Ground:

Ground-Urban:

$$\text{Payment Rate} = [(\text{RVU} * (0.30 + (0.70 * \text{GPCI}))) * \text{CF}] + [\text{MGR} * \# \text{MILES}]$$

Ground-Rural:

$$\text{Payment Rate} = [(\text{RVU} * (0.30 + (0.70 * \text{GPCI}))) * \text{CF}] + [(((1 + \text{RG1}) * \text{MGR}) * \# \text{MILES} \leq 17) + ((1 + \text{RG2}) * \text{MGR}) * \# \text{MILES} 18-50) + (\text{MGR} * \# \text{MILES} > 50)] \text{ (Sign before number 17 was erroneously published in the proposed rule.)}$$

Air:

Air-Urban:

$$\text{Payment Rate} = [((\text{UBR} * 0.50) + ((\text{UBR} * 0.50) * \text{GPCI}))] + [\text{MAR} * \# \text{MILES}]$$

Air-Rural:

$$\text{Payment Rate} = [(1.00 + \text{RA}) * ((\text{UBR} * 0.50) * \text{GPCI})] + [(1.00 + \text{RA}) * (\text{MAR} * \# \text{MILES})]$$

Legend for Formulas

Symbol Meaning

| | |
|------------------|--|
| # | less than or equal to |
| | greater than |
| * | multiply |
| CF | conversion factor (ground = \$159.56; air = 1.0) |
| GPCI | practice expense portion of the geographic practice cost index from the physician fee schedule |
| MAR | mileage air rate (fixed wing rate = 6.49, helicopter rate = 17.30) |
| MGR | mileage ground rate (5.40) |
| #MILES | number of miles the beneficiary was transported |
| #MILES \leq 17 | number of miles the beneficiary was transported less than or equal to 17 |
| #MILES18-50 | number of miles beneficiary was transported between 18 and 50 |
| #MILES $>$ 50 | number of miles the beneficiary was transported greater than 50 |
| RA | rural air adjustment factor (0.50 on entire claim) |
| Rate | maximum allowed rate from ambulance fee schedule |
| RG1 | rural ground adjustment factor amount: first 17 miles (0.50 on first 17 miles) |
| RG2 | rural ground adjustment factor amount: miles 18 through 50 (0.25 on miles 18 through 50) |
| RVUs | relative value units (from chart) |
| UBR | the payment rates without adjustment by the GPCI (unadjusted base rate) |

NOTES: The GPCI is determined by the address (zip code) of the point of pickup.