

# W a l n u t T o w n s h i p

## EMS Transport ~ Billing Program ~

Walnut Township is proud to provide its residents with exceptional fire and EMS services.

The costs for providing emergency medical services are expensive by nature and continue to rise, presenting the ongoing challenge of securing adequate funding.

Effective May 2011, Walnut Township implemented an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Transport Billing Program to defray some of the costs associated with EMS units. A practice of the majority of communities nationwide, EMS billing taps into existing funds available within Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurance policies.

If you or a family member is provided with emergency medical services that result in transportation to a local hospital, a bill for the transport will be sent to your insurance company, Medicare or Medicaid.

**It is important to note that patient care will not be compromised in any way by this program and you should never be afraid to call 9-1-1 for help when you need it.**

### How EMS Transport Billing Works:

Since the EMS Transport Billing Program is designed to capture existing financial resources available through Medicare and commercial insurance providers, it is set up as follows:

- As the EMS transport takes place, patient information is gathered if circumstances allow.
- Patients are asked to sign a HIPAA Protected Health Information authorization sheet.
- The EMS crew completes and electronically submits full details of the transport to a third party billing administrator.
- The billing administrator codes the transport for the appropriate fee, submits the claim to Medicare/ insurance carrier, and follows up as necessary until the claim is settled (up to a total of three bills).



Thurston Walnut  
Township  
Fire Department  
~  
Thurston Station  
  
Chief James Hite



Millersport  
Fire Department  
~  
Millersport Station  
Fairfield Beach  
Station  
  
Chief William Yates

**EMS Providers:** Walnut Township is proudly served by the Millersport Village and Thurston Walnut Township Fire Departments.

### Contact Information

**EMS Transport Billing & Procedures:**  
800-676-0111

**Patient Care Questions/Concerns:**  
**Millersport FD**  
740-467-2646 ~ [www.millersportfire.com](http://www.millersportfire.com)

**Thurston Walnut Township FD**  
740-862-6542 ~ [www.thurstonfire.com](http://www.thurstonfire.com)

**Walnut Township**  
740-467-2420 ~ [www.walnuttp.com](http://www.walnuttp.com)

Walnut Township Trustees  
11420 Old Millersport Rd.  
Millersport, OH 43046

### **What Walnut Township Residents Can Expect**

- Walnut Township residents will not be billed for a transport or for any outstanding balance on a claim, even if they do not have insurance.
- Residents may receive a letter requesting or verifying insurance information if it had not been obtained in full at the time of the EMS transport.
- Some private insurance companies may submit payment to the patient when it should be sent to the billing administrator. If this occurs and the patient has not forwarded the check to the administrator, he/she will receive a letter requesting reimbursement.
- In cases where an EMS transport is provided by another jurisdiction through mutual aid, the policy of that responding entity will apply. Walnut Township residents may receive a bill for any balance due on the claim.

### **What Non-Residents Can Expect**

- Transport claims will be submitted to Medicare/insurance.
- Non-residents will receive up to three bills for any balance not paid by Medicare/insurance, or the entire amount if they do not have insurance.

### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **Will charging for EMS runs compromise patient care in any way?**

No. All calls for help will be responded to in the same manner, regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay.

#### **What process takes place when a person calls 9-1-1?**

All emergency calls go to the Fairfield County 9-1-1 Operator. Dispatchers immediately send the closest available unit that has the required equipment and personnel. If Walnut Township units are busy with emergencies, other surrounding Fire Departments are called upon to respond, thanks to mutual aid agreements that assure quick service.

#### **Will mutual aid agreements be compromised if communities have different EMS billing practices?**

No. Community leaders and fire chiefs recognize mutual aid as an important mechanism for assuring fire and emergency medical assistance to citizens of all neighboring communities.

### **Do health insurance policies cover EMS transportation?**

Yes, both private and government health insurance plans typically have provisions for EMS transportation.

### **Does EMS billing cause a significant increase in health insurance fees?**

No. Since most U.S. communities practice EMS billing, Medicare and commercial insurance policies already have EMS transport provisions.

### **What happens if I do not have health insurance?**

Responding to a call for help remains the top priority, regardless of an individual's insurance situation and ability to pay. Walnut Township residents will not receive a bill for transport or any outstanding balance, even if they do not have insurance. Non-residents will receive a bill for any outstanding balance not covered by insurance.

### **Will a patient be taken to a hospital of his/her choice?**

Yes. However, the severity and nature of a patient's condition may cause medics to determine the most appropriate hospital for treatment.

### **What are the resulting funds raised through EMS Transport Billing used for?**

The funds raised are set aside to support fire and EMS provided by Walnut Township. This includes the support of facilities maintenance and upgrades, and the purchase of fire and EMS equipment and vehicles.

#### **Walnut Township Trustees:**

***Alan Dupler***

***Terry W. Horn***

***Ralph Zollinger***

#### **Fire Chiefs:**

#### **Thurston Walnut Twp FD:**

***James Hite***

#### **Millersport FD**

***William Yates***