



June 12, 2024

Board of Transportation Commissioners

Cris Liban, President

Selika Talkbott, Vice President

Douglas Tohom

Viggen Davidian

Erin Pak

Raymond Regalado

100 S. Main St., 10th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Item #10 Recommendations RE: 2024-25 Private Ambulance Service Rate Adjustment and Adoption of New Methodology for Future Adjustments

Dear Board of Transportation Commissioners,

I write to you today regarding the Board of Transportation's consideration of the proposed increases to private ambulance service rates. Item #10 reflects an over 30% increase in the cost of non-emergency transportation of patients in the City of Los Angeles. These significant increases to rates were developed with little opportunity for input from the hospital community.

Cedars-Sinai's current transportation contract is paid at Federal and State monitored rates. In our existing contract, a 30% increase will have minimal impact on Cedars-Sinai's ability to transfer patients to other facilities from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) and/or Marina Del Rey Hospital (MDRH). However, the existing contract expires in December 2024 and could cause a significant increase in cost as the current city rates are three times more than Federal and State rates. Yesterday, June 11, CSMC transferred out 10 basic life support (BLS) transfers. The 30% suggested increase will add an additional expense of \$4000/day or approximately \$120,000/month.

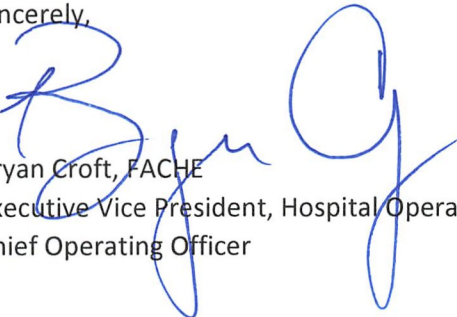
We have found that most basic life support transfers paid at City rates by both CSMC and MDRH are mental health patients transferring to psychiatric hospitals. However, we can expect that communities with high uninsured populations will be most heavily impacted as they will be mandated to pay City rates as there is no Federal or State insurance dictating the payment rate by the insurance company.

At Cedars-Sinai, the non-emergency transport of patients between health facilities is an integral part of the patient continuum of care. While we understand the need for fees to reflect rising costs, we believe the City should develop a transparent process for setting rates that allows for input from all impacted parties. It is important to Cedars-Sinai that we have a voice at the table and an opportunity to comment to the Commission on the impact of changing rates, and the process of rate setting.



For the reasons indicated in this letter, we ask that there be a continuance on this item so that a fair, transparent, and collaborative process for rate setting can be created. This process would allow for better informed changes to rates moving forward.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Croft', written over the typed name and title.

Bryan Croft, FACHE
Executive Vice President, Hospital Operations
Chief Operating Officer