



## NAEMT Statement on Ground Ambulance Patient Balance Billing Advisory Committee Recommendations

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) thanks the [Ground Ambulance and Patient Billing Advisory Committee](#) (GAPBAC) members for their diligent work on an issue that is crucial for patients and the EMS profession.

GAPBAC's [Report on Prevention of Out-Of-Network Ground Ambulance Emergency Service Balance Billing](#) marks the culmination of a three-year process in which committee members, representing virtually all stakeholders involved in emergency ambulance service delivery, analyzed a myriad of options to help ensure that commercially insured patients are protected from high unexpected out-of-pocket expenses related to essential emergency ambulance services.

**NAEMT believes that the committee's 14 recommendations, taken in their entirety, represent the best path forward for Congress to help:**

- Protect patients from unexpected balance bills for emergency ambulance service.
- Assure insurance coverage for emergency ambulance service.
- Assure fees charged by emergency ambulance service providers are reasonable, based on provider costs, and local and state regulations.
- Assure that emergency ambulance service providers are fairly, directly, and appropriately reimbursed by insurers.
- Support application of state-level legislation and regulation to federally regulated, ERISA health plans.

EMS agencies across the country are facing a staffing and economic crisis, and the recommendations provided by the GAPBAC represent the minimal next-step efforts the government should take to ensure EMS's ability to provide reliable, high-quality services is secured for the country's future, given EMS's unprecedented financial challenges.

NAEMT urges Congress to take swift action to enact ***all 14*** of these recommendations to take patients out of the middle of billing disputes, while at the same time, providing crucial funding to allow EMS agencies to continue providing life-saving service in local communities across America.

We additionally urge Congress to work with State delegations and State legislatures to support the promulgation of state-level patient protection laws that incorporate the GAPBAC's 14 recommendations.

### **About NAEMT:**

Formed in 1975 and over 92,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) is the only national association representing the professional interests of paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technicians, emergency

medical responders and other professionals providing prehospital and out-of-hospital emergent, urgent or preventive medical care.

NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military. They also work in hospitals, clinics and other healthcare settings.

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