CHAPTER 5

COST RECOVERY (5239, 5357)

SECTION:

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7-5-1: PURPOSE
The purpose of this Chapter is to allow the City of Mesa, by and through its Fire and Medical Department to recover costs associated with the provision of medical services, including transport services to and between health care facilities. (5239, 5357)

7-5-2: DEFINITIONS
In this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings stated in this section unless the context otherwise requires:

(A) Billable Costs means the reasonable costs incurred in providing medical services including, but not limited to, labor, equipment usage, disposable supplies, medical supplies, medications, oxygen-related costs, mileage, fuel, and any other costs not prohibited by state or federal law. (5239, 5357)

(B) Medical Services means services provided when responding to an emergency medical situation or a 911 call for on-site emergent or low-acuity medical care; initial care; follow-up care; and/or preliminary treatment procedures by emergency medical treatment providers, including, but not limited to, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, licensed nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and behavioral health crisis counselors; and/or transport services to and between health care facilities. (5357)

(C) Third Party Payer means an insurance carrier or other coverage provider, including a private insurance carrier, Medicare or Medicaid. (5239, 5357)

7-5-3: BILLABLE COSTS AND RATES

(A) The Mesa Fire and Medical Department is authorized to bill individuals and third party payers for all reasonable billable costs incurred in or related to the provision of medical services. (5239, 5357)

(B) At the time service is provided or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Mesa Fire and Medical Department shall obtain all pertinent insurance and payment information from the individual to whom service is provided, or from the individual’s family member, agent, or other representative, to facilitate billing for such services. (5239, 5357)

(C) The Mesa Fire and Medical Department may adopt billing rates set by a state agency or a state or federal insurance program, as applicable, set billing rates through contracts with third party payers, or establish reasonable rates to recover billable costs, so long as such rates do not violate state or federal laws or regulations. Such rates shall be set forth in a Schedule of Fees and Charges and adopted by a resolution of the City Council. (5239, 5357)
7-5-4: PROCEDURE FOR BILLING

(A) The City of Mesa, through its Fire and Medical Department, is authorized to enter into a contract with a third party billing agency for performance of the billing authorized under this Chapter; provided, however, that the following standards for such third party billing contracts are met: (5239)

1. All third party billing services are to be provided at an amount consistent with fair market value for services rendered. The City may contract for such services on a percentage of collections basis or other manner consistent with the third party billing agency’s practice. (5239)

2. The third party billing agency has in place a compliance program conforming to standards set forth in the Office of Inspector General’s Compliance Program Guidance for Third Party Medical Billing Companies, 63 Federal Register 70138, as amended. (5239)

3. Funds payable to the City of Mesa by third party payers and/or carriers are not negotiated by billing agencies but are instead deposited directly into a designated City of Mesa account, through lock box or similar arrangement. (5239)

4. Neither the billing agency nor any of its employees are subject to exclusion from any state or federal health care program. (5239)

5. The billing agency is bonded and/or insured in amounts satisfactory to the City of Mesa. (5239)

(B) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the City of Mesa, through its Fire and Medical Department, from performing the billing services set forth herein in lieu of contracting with a third party billing agency. (5239)