

## **Resolution to Support Reimbursements for Fire and EMS Departments Providing Treatment-in-Place Services to Low-Acuity EMS Patients**

*Resolution offered by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the National Volunteer Fire Council*

Whereas, fire departments and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies are able to provide a high-level of care to patients while on the scene of medical emergencies;

Whereas; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that a patient be transported to a hospital for the EMS agency to receive reimbursement for the costs of providing patient care;

Whereas, many low-acuity patients may be treated more efficiently and effectively through treatment-in-place (TIP) services rather than treated and transported to a hospital;

Whereas, thousands of fire and EMS departments provide TIP services to patients even though it results in the EMS agency being unable to seek reimbursement from CMS;

Whereas, countless fire and EMS departments have used mobile integrated healthcare programs to demonstrate that TIP services for low-acuity patients can result in improved patient satisfaction scores, increased cost savings to fire and EMS departments, and reductions in unnecessary hospital admissions;

Whereas, the COVID-19 public health emergency has exacerbated the need to keep low-acuity patients out of hospitals to preserve hospital capacity for higher-acuity and more critically ill patients;

Whereas, fire and EMS departments have been facing exceedingly long wait times when transferring low-acuity patients to hospitals due to hospitals being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients and having no available bed capacity;

Whereas, fire and EMS departments are facing significant reductions in CMS reimbursements since greater numbers of patients have been refusing EMS transportation due to fears of exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and its ensuing illness COVID-19, while in a hospital;

Now, let it therefore be resolved that the Congressional Fire Service Institute fully supports efforts to require CMS to provide reimbursement to fire and EMS departments for providing TIP services to low-acuity EMS patients.