

Report PSR-TAPS-06-15

To: Chair Al Barfoot and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee
From: Mike Muir, Director of Paramedic Services
Meeting Date: August 20, 2015
Subject: Cross Border Billing – Cancellation of Agreement with Bruce County
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution TAPS109-15; Endorsed by County Council September 1, 2015 per Resolution CC124-15;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS in 2012 Grey County approved a resolution TAPS44-12 to enter into agreements with neighbouring single and upper-tier municipalities for the purposes of annual financial reconciliation of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) cross-border service accounts;

AND WHEREAS Grey County and Bruce County have reviewed current and potential future billings for cross border activities and found that they will be mostly revenue neutral;

AND WHEREAS Grey County and Bruce County are supportive of ceasing the practice of cross border billing due to the extensive administrative resources required to complete the reconciliation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Reports PSR-TAPS-06-15 regarding cancellation of the cross border billing agreement with Bruce County be received;

AND THAT cross border billing for land ambulance services cease upon approval of both parties.

Background

On May 1, 2012 County Council endorsed a resolution for the purposes of entering into agreements with municipalities relating to ambulance cross border billing (CBB). The premise for CBB is to allow municipalities to recover costs associated with providing land ambulance services within the boundaries of another municipality. Agreements of

this nature are enabled through legislation contained in the *Ambulance Act* and Regulations.

The issue of CBB was discussed amongst the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) in late 2011 resulting in an understanding that municipalities within the WOWC wishing to bill for cross border services would use a standard agreement template. Although the WOWC agreed in 2012 to participate in CBB, there had been little movement towards municipalities entering into agreements and in particular, Grey County had not entered into any CBB agreements. Additionally, it had come to staff's attention that there are municipalities with CBB implications with Grey County that were not prepared to enter into CBB agreements. Grey County and Bruce County signed an agreement to participate in cross border billing covering the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2021. In 2012 Grey County paid Bruce County \$4,235.50 as a result of Bruce County's net service in Grey County. A single invoice for the years 2013 and 2014 realized a Grey County net recovery from Bruce County in the amount of \$2,061.50. The 2013/2014 recovery amount represents a difference of less than ten calls completed in Bruce County by Grey County. The total number of calls completed by both Bruce County and Grey County was in excess of 500 per year, all of which required individual review for accuracy and inclusion in the final numbers.

Both Grey County and Bruce County staff recognized that the effort to reconcile the calls in light of the mostly neutral outcome was not the best use of staff time and efforts. In July 2015, staff including the Chief Administrative Officers and Directors of Paramedic Services met to discuss the cross border billing agreement and determined that it would be in the best interest of both Counties to request Council's consideration for cancellation of the existing CBB agreement. Bruce County staff is presenting a similar report to its Council at this time.

Grey County has no other current CBB agreements with neighbouring municipalities.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

Financial – Upon termination of the CBB agreement, there will be no further financial implications related to cross border billing. Termination will save significant staff time for reconciliations due to the extensive call volumes that require review.

Legal – As per Section 5, the agreement can be terminated upon mutual agreement of the parties.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Goal #5 Listening and Working Together: 5.2 Collaborate with the public, stakeholders, and other governments to improve delivery of county services.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mike Muir
Director of Paramedic Services