



**Elevating EMS agencies  
since 2011**

## **2020 Quarter 2 Newsletter**

- Like everywhere else recently, Covid-19 is making its presence known in the EMS billing world. While we are all growing tired of hearing and talking about it, at the same time we are compelled to continue doing so as we try to stay current with the rapidly changing information and adjust our responses accordingly. Paradoxically, although this time may be busier for you with meetings, training, and planning, we have seen a significant decrease in patient transports and dispatched emergency responses throughout the second quarter. Because we are billing fewer transports for you, there will be a corresponding dip in the revenue we are able to recover. The benefit of our billing model really shines through in this situation, because your billing fees will be reduced at a corresponding rate. We only get paid when you get paid, and we share in the experience of busy or slow times for your transports. On average we have seen a decrease of around 20% in revenues for our clients since March 1, although as of today, there has been a steady upswing in numbers indicating a return to normal volume is in the near future.

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Although there is much uncertainty for the months ahead concerning travel recommendations, I am beginning to look at general dates for visits to meet with clients around the state, as well as tentatively planning to participate in conferences this fall. I will look forward to seeing you in person, hopefully before too long, but in the meantime please let us know if you'd like to set up a crew training via Zoom, or would like to meet to review rates, billing policies, or any other aspect of your agency. ~ Thanks for all you do! Leslie Graves

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- CMS has issued a waiver for the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection program as part of their efforts to ease the burden falling on EMS providers during this public health emergency. If your agency was chosen to report during the first year, that requirement is now delayed a year. In the initial announcement the dates seemed to be optional, but in further clarification, CMS has stated that the agencies will now be required to report on data collected in 2021. The full text of the CMS waiver can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>.

## EMT SPOTLIGHT: Stacy Bellamy



**AGENCY:** Three Forks Area Ambulance Service, Chief

**YEARS OF SERVICE:** 22 years

**CERTIFICATIONS/EDUCATION:** Currently licensed as AEMT in state of Montana, Graduated from Willow Creek High School and attended MSU Bozeman.

### Stacy's Background

I was raised on a small ranch in northern Montana before moving to Willow Creek and graduating High School. After High School, I was a firefighter for the Forest Service on a Hotshot Crew in Helena for the next five summers. While I was going to college at MSU, I met my wife Jody, and we have been married now for 28 years. We have three grown children and 3 & 3/4 grandchildren as of this post.

I first joined the Willow Creek Fire Department and became a First Responder in 1994. After going on medical calls over the next few years, I became an EMT and joined the Three Forks Ambulance Service. I remained on both Fire and Ambulance for many years before settling in Three Forks. I am also an aerial applicator (crop-duster), as well as a partner in a local Real Estate company, which has forced me to focus primarily on the Ambulance Service. I really love working in our area in the EMS field. We run about 350 calls per year and know most of our patients. This builds some very strong bonds and develops trust and friendships with community members. Our entire crew is very dedicated to this service and their community, which makes me very proud to be a part of this team.

## Compliance Corner

You may have been reviewing your Human Resources policies in light of the challenges presented with the coronavirus, and this is also a good time to review your current compliance plan. Take a look at aspects that may not be frequently referenced, such as the exit interview for employees or volunteers that are departing your agency. Medicare is the most common payer for all claims that we bill, and therefore maintaining compliance with CMS regulations is very important. We have resources to help you if your plan needs refreshing. Jodi is also available to do a review if you have any questions on specific aspects of developing your plan.

You can call our office at 866-340-2505, or email Jodi directly at [jodi@pintlerbillingservices.com](mailto:jodi@pintlerbillingservices.com) to set up a time to talk this over.

*"Save one life, you're a hero.  
Save multiple lives, you're an EMT."*



## Contact Us

**Pintler Billing Services**

**PO Box 2458**

**Eureka, MT 59917**

**866-340-2505**

**[www.pintlerbillingservices.com](http://www.pintlerbillingservices.com)**