

Novi Ambulance rate probe continues

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 that he sends a full life support unit out on minor calls.
 Using the Cody emergency run as an example, Early said the caller indicated that Mrs. Cody had lost a large amount of blood and there was the possibility that the nosebleed was a symptom of a stroke.
 For that reason, Early said, to pick up a woman who had fallen down a flight of stairs. It turned out she had fractured her hip and Early said he was criticized for sending out more equipment than was necessary.

CODY SAYS the paramedics from Novi Ambulance sat his wife on the couch and took her blood pressure when they arrived and told him it was high. He said he has no complaint about the treatment they received from Nov personnel on Aug. 6, just the dollar amount on the bill.
 Cody notes that a friend of his living in Farmington Hills was billed \$132 for life support attention and transportation by Am-Care Ambulance after an accident in July of 1980.

Another thing that bothers Cody about the bill is a notation on the bottom of his copy that reads: "NOTE: Blue Cross does not cover ambulance service."
 Cody, who is a retired Detroit police officer now employed by Manufacturer's Bank as a security supervisor, said he checked with his employer and found emergency runs are covered.
 "What about other people who didn't

check?" Cody asks. "They would just pay it."
 Early said persons with potential life-threatening ailments want the best service available at the time of the emergency but sometimes complain later that less expensive service would have been sufficient.
 An advanced life support unit was sent out recently, said Early, to pick up a woman who had fallen down a flight of stairs. It turned out she had fractured her hip and Early said he was criticized for sending out more equipment than was necessary.

"WHAT CAUSED that fall?" Early said. "You just don't know at the time of the call. Was it a rupture, was it a heart attack?"
 It is Early's belief that most citizens would rather pay a little more to be safe than jeopardize safety over cost considerations. He adds, however, that it would be a mistake to send a full,

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advanced life support unit out to pick up a person involved in, say, a minor traffic accident.
 "There are cheaper ambulance outfits," Early admits. "It's the difference between Fords and Cadillacs."

7-11 collects MD canisters

Muscular dystrophy collection canisters were taken out of Farmington Hills 7-11 stores Friday afternoon to avoid conflict with a city ordinance.
 The canisters were free to persons wishing to collect funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. However, many of the persons were going door-to-door without registering with the city first, a violation of city ordinance.
 "It's not our intent to break the law," 7-11 has been a corporate sponsor for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for years," said Basil Thomas, a spokesman for Southland Corporation, which operates the 7-11 stores.
 "It's (the collecting) for a worthy cause, but in no way do we want to encourage people to break the law," he said.
 Groups wishing to collect for an organization on a door-to-door basis must

contact the city clerk's office to obtain permission. The clerk's office then notifies the police department of the collection date and participants.
 Many of the canisters were being taken by younger children going door-to-door, which drew complaints from a Farmington Hills woman.
 "I feel it's a safety hazard. I'm appalled these young kids can knock on doors without parental permission," said Barbara Duncan.
 "Two of the parents (of children collecting) were shocked when I told them their kids were going door-to-door. They didn't even know it," she said.
 Southland Corporation was not aware collectors needed to register with the city, and discontinued the distribution of the canisters as soon as it was brought to their attention, Thomas said.

Classes set

The Oakland County Health Division will offer three series of Expectant Parent Classes beginning the first week of September.
 Classes will be held weekly for eight weeks, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield.

There is no charge for attending the series, but pre-registration is required. To enroll, call 424-7052.

Topics that will be covered include family adjustment to pregnancy, growth and development of the baby, labor and delivery, infant care and parenting. One of the class sessions will be a tour of a local hospital.
 The classes are taught by a public health nurse and are co-sponsored by the Oakland County Medical Society.

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