

AGREEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICES

This Agreement is entered into this 11 day of September, 2017, by and between Emergicon, LLC, a Texas business corporation, and Wise County, a Texas governmental entity, namely Wise County EMS ("Client").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Client provides emergency and/or non-emergency ambulance services for which it is eligible for payment or reimbursement by patients, insurance carriers, governmental agencies, employers and others;

WHEREAS, Emergicon is engaged in the business of providing third-party billing and accounts receivable management specialized professional services for ambulance and emergency medical service organizations;

WHEREAS, Client desires to utilize Emergicon for billing and claims management services for its organization; and

WHEREAS, Emergicon is willing to provide such specialized professional services upon the terms and conditions provided in this Agreement;

THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

1. Appointment. Client hereby engages Emergicon to exclusively perform the Specialized Professional Services set described in Paragraph 2 of this Agreement and Emergicon accepts such exclusive appointment and agrees to provide Specialized Professional Services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Client agrees that it will not enter into any contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding with any other person or entity, the purpose of which is to provide for the same or substantially similar specialized professional services during the term of the Agreement, unless the parties agree otherwise as set forth in writing in an Addendum to this Agreement. For purposes of the appointment, the recitals set forth above are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement as if set forth in their entirety.

2. Specialized Professional Services. Emergicon agrees to perform the following duties (collectively referred to as the "Services") on behalf of Client:

a. Provide Client with instructions for the submission of Required Documentation to Emergicon. For purposes of this Agreement, "Required Documentation" shall consist of prehospital patient care reports (PCRs) (also referred to as "trip sheets" or "run reports"), physician certification statements (PCSs) (required for non-emergency transports), patient authorization signatures (sometimes referred to as "assignment of benefits form" or "signature form"), Advance Beneficiary Notices of Non-coverage (ABNs) and other documentation necessary for Emergicon to perform the Specialized Professional Services under this Agreement. All Required Documentation must be signed in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and payer guidelines.

b. Review the Required Documentation, based on the information supplied by Client, for completeness and eligibility for submission to request reimbursement and to verify compliance under applicable laws, regulations or payer rules, based upon Emergicon's understanding of said laws, regulations or payer rules applicable to the date the ambulance services were rendered. If any Required Documentation is missing, Emergicon will request necessary documentation from Client.

c. Promptly prepare and submit claims deemed complete and eligible for submission by Emergicon in conformance with this Agreement for electronic or paper submission to the appropriate party or payer based on the information supplied by Client. In the event that Emergicon deems the Required Documentation to be incomplete or inconsistent, Emergicon will notify Client that additional information may be required to process the claim, and Emergicon will return any or all of the Required Documentation to Client that Emergicon determines may be incomplete or inaccurate and will not be responsible to submit any claims with insufficient documentation. Emergicon will make a decision regarding the appropriate coding and payer for submission of the claim based on the information supplied by Client. Client understands and acknowledges that not all accounts will satisfy the eligibility requirements of all payers, and that it might not be possible to obtain reimbursement in all cases. Emergicon makes no representation or warranty that all claims are payable or will be paid, and Client agrees to abide by Emergicon's decisions with regard to proper coding and payer based on the information provided to Emergicon by Client.

d. Promptly post payments made on Client's behalf by patients, insurers and others.

e. Unless otherwise directed by Client, make reasonable efforts for the collection of co-payments, deductibles or other patient balances, to include the preparation of invoices and a maximum of three contact attempts to patients, supplemental insurers or other financially responsible parties at industry-appropriate intervals.

f. Perform follow-up for a commercially reasonable period of time following the initial billing date on all open accounts. After this follow-up period, Emergicon will either return the accounts to Client or forward the accounts to a collection agency of Client's choosing. Client and/or its designated collection agency shall bear all costs and liabilities of collections activities and collection agency charges.

g. Provide monthly reports to Client, which include, at a minimum, cash received, accounts receivable and balance summary. Emergicon shall furnish those reports to Client.

h. Notify Client of any potential overpayments and/or credit balances of which Emergicon becomes aware that may be required to be refunded. Client bears sole responsibility for the refund of any overpayments or credit balances to Medicare, Medicaid, patients, or other payers or insurers, and agrees to make such refunds when and within the time frames required by law. Emergicon may, at its option, assist Client in processing such refunds, but all refunds are to be made solely with Client's funds, and Emergicon has no responsibility to make such refunds unless and until Client transfers such funds to Emergicon for this purpose. Emergicon shall not

advance funds on behalf of Client for this purpose. Client acknowledges that federal law requires that any overpayments made by Medicare or any other federal health care program be refunded within 60 days of the identification of any such overpayments.

i. If Client desires that its patients be able to pay their accounts utilizing credit cards, establish a credit card merchant account and related capabilities to permit Client's patients to pay via any major credit card. Emergicon shall in its sole discretion determine which credit cards it will accept.

3. Specifically Excluded Duties of Emergicon. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement to the contrary, Emergicon shall *not* be responsible to:

- a. Initiate or pursue litigation for the collection of past due accounts.
- b. Invoice for Client's non-ambulance medical transportation services, including but not limited to mobile integrated health programs, paratransit services, wheelchair van, invalid coach services, litter vans and stretcher cars, unless specific arrangements are made otherwise.
- c. Negotiate any checks made payable to Client, though Emergicon may receive funds as an agent of Client for transmittal to Client where permitted by Client;
- d. Accept reassignment of any benefits payable to Client;
- e. Provide legal advice or legal services to Client, any of Client's patients or payers, or anyone acting on Client's behalf;
- f. Obtain any prior authorizations on behalf of Client, or obtain a Physician Certification Statement or other Certificate of Medical Necessity on behalf of Client.
- g. Assist Client in preparing, filing and updating the information on its Medicare, Medicaid or other insurer provider enrollment forms, as well as responding to required revalidations of Client's provider enrollment status. Client bears the sole responsibility to ensure that its Medicare, Medicaid or other insurer provider enrollment forms are submitted and updated in accordance with federal and state law, regulations and policies. Client bears the exclusive responsibility for the submission of such form and any fees that may be associated with the submission of such forms. Upon specific written request from Client, Emergicon may agree to assist with such form submission and/or revalidation of Medicare, Medicaid or other insurer provider enrollment forms, provided that the responsibility for actual submission and all fees associated with the forms shall be borne exclusively by Client and paid prior to submission of these forms by Emergicon.

4. Responsibilities of Client. Client agrees to do the following, at its sole cost and expense:

- a. Provide Emergicon with all Required Documentation, as set forth in Paragraph 2(a), above, as well as the following data: Patient Name and Address, Date of Birth,

Date of Service, Patient Medical Condition, Reason for Transport, Services Rendered (including assessments, interventions and other care), Origin and Destination with accompanying Zip Code, Transport Destination with accompanying Zip Code, Odometer Reading/Loaded Mileage (to the nearest tenth of a mile), and all relevant insurer or payer information, including identity of payer, group or plan numbers, patient's Insurance/Medicare/Medicaid Number, and all other relevant information and ensure that this data and the information contained on the Required Documentation is complete and accurate. Emergicon reserves the right to modify any Required Documentation or data at any time in accordance with new or revised payer requirements, and will provide a copy of any such revisions to Client in writing. Client acknowledges that Emergicon must rely upon the accuracy and completeness of the forms, signatures and other documentation provided to it by Client to allow Emergicon to perform the Specialized Professional Services specified in this Agreement. Emergicon is not in a position to verify the accuracy or completeness of the Required Documentation provided by Client. By forwarding any such documentation to Emergicon, Client expressly represents and warrants that any such documentation is complete and accurate, and that Emergicon may rely upon the completeness and accuracy of any such documentation in performing its Services under this Agreement. Client acknowledges that if Emergicon submits incorrect documentation Emergicon will be noncompliant with Federal and State healthcare regulations and commercial insurance obligations and may be subject to causes of action, costs, claims, losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, judgments, and penalties. Client bears sole responsibility for the claim submissions made by Emergicon on its behalf based upon the aforementioned documentation submitted to Emergicon by Client, to the extent state law allows, if it is later proven such documentation is incomplete or inaccurate.

b. Maintain its qualifications to provide ambulance services, including any required local, state and/or federal licenses, permits, certificates or enrollments (collectively, "Licenses"), and to remain in good standing with Medicare, Medicaid and all other state and federal health care programs. Client shall provide copies of all current Licenses, including renewals, to Emergicon. Client shall be responsible to maintain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number and to update the information associated with its NPI. Client expressly represents and warrants that it will not forward accounts for processing by Emergicon if the account is ineligible for payment or reimbursement, or if Client is ineligible for payment by any payers or insurers as a result of its licensure status, exclusion or other sanction with such payer or insurer, or other legal impediment, and that it will promptly notify Emergicon of any suspension or revocation of any required license, permit, certification or enrollment, or exclusion from any state or federal health care program or any change in ownership or management of Client.

c. Provide Emergicon with a copy of all required Licenses, permits, certificates and enrollments as referenced in Paragraph 4(b), and forward updates of these documents to Emergicon as they are renewed.

d. Provide Emergicon with odometer readings or other documentation of mileage accepted by the payer on all calls reflecting loaded mileage (from the point of patient pickup to the destination) recorded in tenths of a mile as required by Medicare guidelines.

g. In accordance with appropriate payer guidelines, obtain the signature of the patient or other authorized representative of the patient or otherwise meet the ambulance signature requirements set forth at 42 C.F.R. § 424.36 on each call and forward to Emergicon as part of the

Required Documentation.

f. In the event that Client operates a subscription or membership program, client represents and warrants that its program is actuarially sound in accordance with the guidance of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and operated in accordance with any applicable state laws, regulations or guidelines. Emergicon will bill in accordance with the terms of such program, provided that Client furnishes those terms to Emergicon in writing. Client is responsible to inform Emergicon of its patients who are members or subscribers of Client's membership or subscription program.

g. If Client is a party to any ALS-BLS "joint billing" or "bundle billing" agreement, Client shall be responsible to provide Emergicon with a copy of such agreement. Client also agrees to submit a PCR from the other party to the joint billing agreement along with the Required Documentation.

h. Obtain a completed and valid PCS form on all trips where required by law and provide copies of all PCS forms to Emergicon as part of the Required Documentation.

i. Provide Emergicon with a copy of all Client rate schedules, contracts or agreements which pertain to Client's billing or charges for services.

j. Notify Emergicon of any or all changes in billing charges for service or changes in any of Client's billing policies or contracts not later than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of said changes.

k. Report all payments made directly to Client within twenty-four (24) hours of Client's receipt of same.

l. Cooperate reasonably with Emergicon so as to enable Emergicon to meet its obligations under this Agreement. In the event that Client's approval is required in order for Emergicon to fulfill any obligations it may have under this Agreement, Client shall not unreasonably withhold, condition or delay its approval.

m. In writing, notify Emergicon of any customized needs (reporting, scheduling, etc.). Client understands that the processing of customized needs may entail additional charges to Client by Emergicon.

n. Designate a contact person, authorized to transact business on behalf of Client, who can promptly respond to any questions raised by Emergicon, or who can execute required forms and other documents necessary to the provision of Services by Emergicon under this Agreement.

o. Agree to permit Emergicon to provide training to Client personnel in the event that Emergicon deems such training to be necessary and/or desirable at a cost to be mutually agreed upon by the parties and paid by Client.

p. Provide electronic transfer of PCR data in an acceptable NEMSIS format to

Emergicon, Client agrees to bear all cost of the development and implementation of the electronic software “bridge” as agreed upon by and in conjunction with Emergicon information technology personnel, representatives or contractors.

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5. Record Ownership and Access.

a. Client understands that all documentation provided to Emergicon by Client, whether in paper and/or electronic form, is for the sole and express purpose of permitting Emergicon to provide Specialized Professional Services under this Agreement. It is Client’s responsibility to maintain all of its documents and business records, including copies of any documents or records provided to Emergicon (“Client-Provided Records”). Emergicon does not act as Client’s records custodian.

b. As a convenience to Client, Emergicon will, during the term of this Agreement, produce patient care reports in response to routine attorney requests (with appropriate patient authorization) for such documentation, if those records are in Emergicon’s possession at the time it receives such attorney request. For subpoenas, as well as any requests beyond those deemed by Emergicon to be routine attorney requests, Emergicon shall forward such requests to Client for disposition.

c. During the term of this Agreement, Emergicon shall, upon Client’s written request, provide to Client, in electronic format and within 14 days of receipt of such written request, copies of any Client-Provided Records furnished to Emergicon by Client, and to any Claim Adjudication Documents generated by and received from insurers or payers in response to claims submitted by Emergicon on Client’s behalf. “Claim Adjudication Documents” shall consist of the documents generated secondary to claim submission in the normal course of claim processing by payers and insurers, including Explanation of Benefits (EOB) documents, Remittance Advice (RA) documents, Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) documents, denials and other documents of a similar type or nature.

d. Any documents, data, records or information compiled in the course of Emergicon’s provision of Specialized Professional Services under this Agreement, other than those Client-Provided Records and Claim Adjudication Records defined in Paragraphs 5(a) and (c) above, shall be the sole and exclusive property of Emergicon and shall be considered the business and/or proprietary records of Emergicon. Emergicon shall have no obligation to furnish any such business or proprietary records of Emergicon to Client, and Client shall have a right of access only to the Client-Provided Records and Claim Adjudication Documents as defined in Paragraphs 5(a) and (c), above.

e. If Client or a third party requests any documents or records to which Client or the third party has a right of access under Paragraphs 5(a) and (c) of this Agreement, and such documents cannot be provided to Client in electronic form, Emergicon may charge Client the per-copy amount for medical records permitted under applicable law at the time of Client’s request.

f. Should this Agreement be terminated for any reason, all documents and records to which Client has a right of access under Paragraphs 5(a) and (c) of this Agreement shall

be maintained in electronic format at a site convenient to Emergicon for a reasonable amount of time for follow-up of all open claims, but in any event not to exceed ninety (90) days following the effective date of termination of this Agreement. Electronic or paper copies, as per Paragraph 5(e) hereof, of the records to which Client has a right of access under Paragraphs 5(a) and (c) will be made available to Client, at Client's sole cost and expense, in a format acceptable to Emergicon at the Client's written request provided that Client makes such request within thirty (30) days following termination of the Agreement, and provided that Client has no outstanding invoices due to Emergicon at the time of the request. Emergicon shall have absolutely no responsibility whatsoever after termination of this Agreement to provide any monthly reports or other such Emergicon-generated reports to Client.

g. Upon termination of this Agreement, Client is responsible to notify all payers, patients, and other correspondents of its new address, phone and/or fax numbers for billing or payment purposes. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement to the contrary, Emergicon will not be responsible for mail, deliveries, faxes, messages or other communications sent in Client's name to Emergicon after the effective termination date of this Agreement, and Emergicon shall have no duty to accept, maintain, copy, deliver or forward any such communications to Client following termination of this Agreement.

h. Costs for copies of documents required and/or requested by Client beyond the requirement of the normal daily claim handling requirements will be invoiced to Client by Emergicon at a per copy price to be established by Emergicon from time to time.

6. Client Accounting and Auditing Requirements. If Client requires Emergicon's assistance in Client's accounting or other internal audits, Emergicon will charge client for said audit support services at its customary rates, to be established by Emergicon from time to time. Upon written request of Client for same, Emergicon shall furnish said rates to Client in writing prior to undertaking any work pursuant to this Paragraph.

7. Term and Termination.

a. This Agreement is for an initial term of one year and will automatically renew under successive like terms unless terminated hereunder.

b. This Agreement may be terminated upon the expiration of its then-current term, with or without cause, by either party, upon written notice to the other party, given no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the then-current term.

c. This Agreement may be terminated by Emergicon immediately upon written notice to Client for any of the following reasons:

i. If Client makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, files a voluntary or involuntary petition in bankruptcy, is adjudicated insolvent or bankrupt, petitions or applies to any tribunal for the appointment of any receiver of any trustee over its assets or properties, commences any proceeding under any reorganization, arrangement, readjustment of debt or similar law or statute of any jurisdiction, whether now or hereafter in effect, or if there is commenced against the other party any such proceeding which remains un-dismissed, un-stayed,

or the other party by any act or any omission to act indicated its consent to, approval of or acquiescence in any such proceeding or the appointment of any receiver or of any trustee, or suffers any such receivership or trusteeship to continue undischarged, un-stayed, or un-vacated for a period of thirty (30) days.

ii. If Client loses its license, permit or certification necessary to do business, or is excluded from any state or federal health care program.

iii. If Client fails to perform any of its responsibilities as set forth in this Agreement, fails to pay Emergicon for its specialized professional services within thirty (30) days of the date such payment becomes due, takes any actions which Emergicon, in its sole discretion, determines to be unethical, illegal, immoral or non-compliant, or fails to cooperate with Emergicon in any way that prevents, impedes, obstructs or delays Emergicon in the performance of the Specialized Professional Services set forth in this Agreement.

d. Upon termination for any reason, Emergicon shall perform follow-up on any open accounts submitted by Emergicon on Client's behalf for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from the date of termination. Emergicon shall have no responsibility to perform such follow-up in the event Client takes any actions which prevent Emergicon from engaging in such follow-up, or in the event that Client has any unpaid balances due to Emergicon on the date of termination of this Agreement.

e. Upon termination for any reason, Client shall be responsible to pay the fees set forth in Paragraph 10 below, for all revenues collected by Emergicon on Client's behalf during the 90-day follow-up period set forth in Paragraph 7(d) above. After notice of termination is given, all Emergicon invoices are due and payable by Client within five (5) days of same. In the event that Client does not remit payment on any such invoice within five (5) days of the invoice, Emergicon shall have no responsibility to perform any further follow-up on open accounts, notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 7(d) above.

8. External and Internal Audits.

a. Client shall immediately notify Emergicon if there has been any prepayment audit or review, post payment audit or review, or any investigation or other formal inquiry into the billing practices of Client and/or Emergicon, or claims submitted by Emergicon on behalf of Client, where such audit or investigation is or appears to have been initiated by any governmental agency, insurer, payer, carrier, Medicare Administrative Contractor, Recovery Audit Contract, Zone Program Integrity Contractor, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, other Medicare or Medicaid contractor or other agency or entity authorized to carry out any such audit or investigation. This obligation shall survive termination of this Agreement for any reason.

b. Emergicon shall assist Client in producing any records, reports or documents in its possession which pertain to the audit or investigation and may charge Client a reasonable fee for copying, preparation, assembly or retrieval of such documents or reports. Emergicon shall have no obligation to perform any duties under this Paragraph 8(b) following termination of this Agreement for any reason.

c. Client is solely responsible for repaying any overpayments or recoupments sought or imposed by any insurer, carrier, payer or governmental agency or contractor, including interest, civil monetary penalties, fines or other such assessments.

d. Client understands and acknowledges that Emergicon, as part of its compliance program, may on occasion, and at its sole discretion, perform or contract for the performance of periodic, random, internal audits of its coding, billing and other business practices. These voluntary, internal compliance audits may reveal the existence of Client overpayments, and Client agrees that any such overpayments identified by Emergicon in its internal auditing process will be refunded by Client as described in more detail in Paragraph 2(h) of this Agreement.

9. Disposition of Funds.

a. All funds Emergicon receives from third party payers, patients or other sources for ambulance services provided by Client shall be made in the name of Client and forwarded monthly to Client or deposited into a Client account as directed by Client.

b. If Client desires that its patients be able to pay their accounts utilizing credit cards, then Emergicon shall accept credit card payments on behalf of Client's patients in a manner that is secure and agreed upon by the parties, and only to the extent possible and feasible, without making Emergicon a collection agency and responsible for compliance with the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and other state or federal debt collection laws

c. Emergicon shall not accept a reassignment of any benefits where prohibited by law.

10. Compensation.

a. In exchange for the Specialized Professional Services described in this Agreement, Client shall pay Emergicon a fee equivalent to seven percent (7.0%) of all revenues collected by Emergicon on behalf of Client. Credit card payments accepted by Emergicon will be charged an additional two percent (2.0%).

b. If Client instructs Emergicon to collect on an account(s) initially billed by another Contractor, Emergicon shall be compensated and paid for the collection efforts on said account in accordance with the following schedule: Eighteen Percent (18%) of the total amount collected on the account.

c. If Client instructs Emergicon to continue to pursue Patient Pay accounts with balances beyond 120 days from the date of transport, Emergicon shall be compensated and paid for the collection efforts on said account in accordance with the following schedule: fifteen Percent (15%) of the total amount collected on the account.

d. The fees payable by Client to Emergicon shall be calculated and invoiced to Client on a periodic basis established by Emergicon in accordance with the receipts report generated by Emergicon.

e. Emergicon shall submit invoices to Client on a periodic basis established by Emergicon. Invoices are to be paid by Client within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. Emergicon reserves the right to add simple interest at a rate that is accordance with the Texas Government Code. This policy does not apply to payments that are in dispute between the parties.

f. In the event that Client is obligated to refund any overpayment or credit balance as set forth in Paragraph 2(h), fees paid to Emergicon by Client for such refunded overpayment or credit balance shall not be credited or refunded to Client.

g. The rates set forth by Emergicon to be charged to Client for Specialized Professional Services rendered are subject to change by Emergicon upon thirty (30) days written notice to Client.

i. Client agrees to reimburse Emergicon for any and all sales tax liabilities that may arise as a result of this Agreement.

11. Indemnification and Insurance.

a. In addition to any specific indemnification provisions set forth in this Agreement, Emergicon shall hold harmless, indemnify and defend Client and/or its employees, officers, directors and agents from and against any and all costs, claims, losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, judgments, penalties, fines and causes of action to the extent caused by any willful or grossly negligent misconduct of any Emergicon agent, servant, contractor or employee and which relate to the Specialized Professional Services performed by Emergicon under this Agreement.

b. Emergicon shall maintain errors and omissions insurance coverage in an amount not less than \$1,000,000. Emergicon shall provide proof of such coverage to Client upon reasonable written request for same.

c. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, neither party shall be liable for any damages, including but not limited to loss in profits, or for any special, incidental, indirect, consequential or other similar damages suffered in whole, or in part, in connection with this Agreement. Any liability of Emergicon shall not exceed any amounts paid to Emergicon by Client under this Agreement for any disputed billing performed by Emergicon on behalf of Client.

12. Confidentiality. Neither Emergicon nor Client shall, during the term of this Agreement or for any extension hereof, for any reason, disclose to any third parties any proprietary information regarding the other party unless required to do so by law, regulation or subpoena. For purposes of this Agreement, "proprietary information" shall include, but not be limited to, pricing or rate information, information pertaining to contracts with payers, insurers, facilities, ambulance providers, health care systems, or other such parties, audit requests, audit results, billing processes, client lists or other such information. -The Parties recognize and understand that the Client is subject to the Texas Information Act and disclosure of -Proprietary Information pursuant to the Act is not a violation of this agreement.

13. HIPAA Business Associate Assurances. Emergicon agrees to appropriately

safeguard protected health information (“PHI”) that is created, received, maintained, or transmitted on behalf of Client in compliance with the applicable provisions of Public Law 104-191 of August 21, 1996, known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Subtitle F – Administrative Simplification, Sections 261, *et seq.*, as amended (“HIPAA”), and with Public Law 111-5 of February 17, 2009, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Title XII, Subtitle D – Privacy, Sections 13400, *et seq.*, the Health Information Technology and Clinical Health Act, as amended (the “HITECH Act”).

a. General Provisions

i. Meaning of Terms. The terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms defined in HIPAA.

ii. Regulatory References. Any reference in this Agreement to a regulatory section means the section currently in effect or as amended.

iii. Interpretation. Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be interpreted to permit compliance with HIPAA.

b. Obligations of Emergicon

Emergicon agrees that it will:

i. Not use or further disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by this Agreement or as required by law;

ii. Use appropriate safeguards and comply, where applicable, with the HIPAA Security Rule with respect to electronic protected health information (“e-PHI”) and implement appropriate physical, technical and administrative safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of PHI other than as provided for by this Agreement;

iii. Report to Client any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this Agreement of which it becomes aware, including any security incident (as defined in the HIPAA Security Rule) and any breaches of unsecured PHI as required by 45 CFR §164.410. Breaches of unsecured PHI shall be reported to Client without unreasonable delay but in no case later than 60 days after discovery of the breach;

iv. In accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), ensure that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit PHI on behalf of Emergicon agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to Emergicon with respect to such information;

v. Make PHI in a designated record set available to Client and to an individual who has a right of access in a manner that satisfies Client’s obligations to provide access to PHI in accordance with 45 CFR §164.524 within 30 days of a request;

vi. Make any amendment(s) to PHI in a designated record set as directed by Client, or take other measures necessary to satisfy Client's obligations under 45 CFR §164.526;

vii. Maintain and make available information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to Client or an individual who has a right to an accounting within 60 days and as necessary to satisfy Client's obligations under 45 CFR §164.528;

viii. To the extent that Emergicon is to carry out any of Client's obligations under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, Emergicon shall comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule that apply to Client when it carries out that obligation;

ix. Make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, or created or received by Emergicon on behalf of Client, available to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of determining Emergicon and Client's compliance with HIPAA and the HITECH Act;

x. Restrict the use or disclosure of PHI if Client notifies Emergicon of any restriction on the use or disclosure of PHI that Client has agreed to or is required to abide by under 45 CFR §164.522; and

xi. If Client is subject to the Red Flags Rule (found at 16 CFR §681.1 *et seq.*), Emergicon agrees to assist Client in complying with its Red Flags Rule obligations by: (a) implementing policies and procedures to detect relevant Red Flags (as defined under 16 C.F.R. §681.2); (b) taking all steps necessary to comply with the policies and procedures of Client's Identity Theft Prevention Program; (c) ensuring that any agent or third party who performs services on its behalf in connection with covered accounts of Client agrees to implement reasonable policies and procedures designed to detect, prevent, and mitigate the risk of identity theft; and (d) alerting Client of any Red Flag incident (as defined by the Red Flag Rules) of which it becomes aware, the steps it has taken to mitigate any potential harm that may have occurred, and provide a report to Client of any threat of identity theft as a result of the incident.

c. Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Emergicon

The specific uses and disclosures of PHI that Emergicon may make on behalf of Client include:

i. The preparation of invoices to patients, carriers, insurers and others responsible for payment or reimbursement of the Services provided by Client to its patients, as set forth in this Agreement;

ii. Preparation of reminder notices and documents pertaining to collections of overdue accounts;

iii. The submission of supporting documentation to carriers, insurers and other payers to substantiate the healthcare services provided by Client to its patients or to appeal denials of payment for the same; and

iv. Other uses or disclosures of PHI as permitted by HIPAA necessary to perform the Services that Emergicon has been agreed to perform on behalf of Client, as set forth in this Agreement.

d. Termination

i. Notwithstanding the termination provisions set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Agreement, Client may terminate this Agreement if Client determines that Emergicon has violated a material term of the HIPAA Business Associate Assurances set forth in this Paragraph 13.

ii. If either party knows of a pattern of activity or practice of the other party that constitutes a material breach or violation of the other party's obligations under this Agreement, that party shall take reasonable steps to cure the breach or end the violation, as applicable, and, if such steps are unsuccessful, terminate this Agreement, according to the provisions set forth in Paragraph 7 of this Agreement, if feasible.

iii. Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason and upon the written request of Client and pursuant to the other terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, Emergicon shall return to Client or destroy all PHI received from Client, or created, maintained, or received by Emergicon on behalf of Client that Emergicon still maintains in any form. If return or destruction is infeasible, the protections of this Agreement will extend to such PHI.

14. Compliance.

a. Emergicon will conduct its activities and operations in compliance with all state and federal statutes, rules and regulations applicable to billing activities.

b. Client shall conduct its activities, operations and documentation in compliance with all applicable state and federal statutes, rules and regulations. Client expressly represents and warrants that it is under no legal impediment to billing or receiving reimbursement for its services, and that all of Client's personnel are appropriately licensed and/or certified to furnish the services provided by Client.

c. Each party is responsible for monitoring and ensuring its own compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to billing and reimbursement for its services. However, either party which becomes aware of a violation of any such state or federal laws or regulations or of a questionable claim or claim practice agrees to notify the other party in writing within fifteen (15) days so the other party may appropriately address the matter.

d. The parties represent that they are not the subject of any actions or investigations pertaining to its participation in or standing with any state or federal health care program, are not subject to exclusion from any state and/or federal health care program, and that no persons providing services for which reimbursement is sought were at the time such services were rendered excluded from any state or Federal health care program.

e. The parties recognize that this Agreement is at all times subject to applicable state, local, and federal laws and shall be construed accordingly. The parties further recognize that this Agreement may become subject to or be affected by amendments in such laws and regulations or to new legislation or regulations. Any provisions of law that invalidate, or are otherwise inconsistent with, the material terms and conditions of this Agreement, or that would cause one or both of the parties hereto to be in violation of law, shall be deemed to have superseded the terms of this Agreement and, in such event, the parties agree to utilize their best efforts to modify the terms and conditions of this Agreement to be consistent with the requirements of such law(s) in order to effectuate the purposes and intent of this Agreement. In the event that any such laws or regulations affecting this Agreement are enacted, amended or promulgated, either party may propose to the other a written amendment to this Agreement to be consistent with the provisions of such laws or regulations. In the event that the parties do not agree on such written amendments within thirty (30) days of receipt of the proposed written amendments, then either party may terminate this Agreement without further notice, unless this Agreement would expire earlier by its terms.

f. Non-Engagement of Individuals on the OIG Exclusion List. The parties further warrant that each will take all reasonable steps as set forth by the Office of Inspector General, United States Department of Health and Human Service, to ensure that it does not employ or otherwise engage individuals who have been excluded from participation in federal health care programs. The parties agree to periodically check the OIG exclusion website to ensure that employees, volunteers and all others providing services for each respective organization are not excluded. The website is: <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov>.

15. Independent Contractor Relationship. Emergicon and Client stand in an independent contractor relationship to one another and shall not be considered as joint venturers or partners, and nothing herein shall be construed to authorize either party to act as general agent for the other. There is no liability on the part of Emergicon to any entity for any debts, liabilities or obligations incurred by or on behalf of the Client.

16. Prevention of Performance. If a party's obligation to perform any duty hereunder is rendered impossible of performance due to any cause beyond such party's control, including, without limitation, an act of God, war, civil disturbance, fire or casualty, labor dispute, hardware or software failures beyond the party's control, or governmental rule, such party, for so long as such condition exists, shall be excused from such performance, provided it promptly provides the other party with written notice of its inability to perform stating the reasons for such inability and provided that the party takes all appropriate steps as soon as reasonably practicable upon the termination of such condition to recommence performance.

17. Notices. Notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be made to the parties at the following addresses and shall be presumed to have been received by the other party (i) three days after mailing by the party when notices are sent by First Class mail, postage prepaid; (ii) upon transmission (if sent via facsimile with a confirmed transmission report); or (iii) upon receipt (if sent by hand delivery or courier service).

Emergicon:
Emergicon LLC.

Client:
Wise County Auditor

PO Box 180446
Dallas, TX 75218
Fax: (469) 602-5542


P.O. Box 899
Decatur, Texas 76234
Fax:

18. Non-Competition and Non-Solicitation Clause. Without prior, written authorization from Emergicon, Client shall not during the term of this Agreement, or for two (2) years following its expiration or termination for any reason, employ, retain as an independent contractor, or otherwise in any way hire any personnel currently employed or employed at any time during the term of this Agreement by Emergicon. Client expressly agrees that in the event of a breach of this provision, Emergicon shall be entitled to a placement fee of two times the annual salary paid by Emergicon to such employee at the time such employee left employment of Emergicon.

19. Governing Law and Forum Selection Clause. This Agreement shall be deemed to have been made and entered into in Texas and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws thereof, without regard to conflicts of laws principles. The parties expressly agree that the exclusive forum for resolving any legal disputes under this Agreement shall be the state or federal courts serving Wise County, Texas. Client expressly agrees to personal jurisdiction and venue in any such court.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement to commence on the date first above written. Client represents that the individual who has executed this Agreement on behalf of the Client is authorized by Client and by law to do so.

EMERGICON, LLC.

By:  08/30/2017
Signature Date

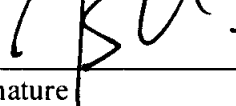
Christopher Turner

Print Name

President & CEO

Title

WISE COUNTY

By:  9-18-17
Signature Date

JD Clark

Print Name

County Judge

Title

Business Associate Agreement
Between
Wise County EMS
and Emergicon, LLC

This Business Associate Agreement (“Agreement”) between Wise County EMS and Emergicon, LLC is executed to ensure that Emergicon, LLC will appropriately safeguard protected health information (“PHI”) that is created, received, maintained, or transmitted on behalf of Wise County EMS in compliance with the applicable provisions of Public Law 104-191 of August 21, 1996, known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Subtitle F – Administrative Simplification, Sections 261, *et seq.*, as amended (“HIPAA”), and with Public Law 111-5 of February 17, 2009, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Title XII, Subtitle D – Privacy, Sections 13400, *et seq.*, the Health Information Technology and Clinical Health Act, as amended (the “HITECH Act”).

A. General Provisions

1. **Meaning of Terms.** The terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms defined in HIPAA.
2. **Regulatory References.** Any reference in this Agreement to a regulatory section means the section currently in effect or as amended.
3. **Interpretation.** Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be interpreted to permit compliance with HIPAA.

B. Obligations of Business Associate

Emergicon, LLC, agrees that it will:

1. Not use or further disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by this Agreement or as required by law;
2. Use appropriate safeguards and comply, where applicable, with the HIPAA Security Rule with respect to electronic protected health information (“e- PHI”) and implement appropriate physical, technical and administrative safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of PHI other than as provided for by this Agreement;
3. Report to Wise County EMS any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this Agreement of which it becomes aware, including any security incident (as defined in the HIPAA Security Rule) and any breaches of unsecured PHI as required by 45 CFR §164.410. Breaches of unsecured PHI shall be reported to Wise County EMS without unreasonable delay but in no case later than 60 days after discovery of the breach;
4. In accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), ensure that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit PHI on behalf of Emergicon, LLC agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to Emergicon, LLC with respect to such information;

5. Make PHI in a designated record set available to Wise County EMS and to an individual who has a right of access in a manner that satisfies Wise County EMS's obligations to provide access to PHI in accordance with 45 CFR §164.524 within 30 days of a request;
6. Make any amendment(s) to PHI in a designated record set as directed by Wise County EMS, or take other measures necessary to satisfy Wise County EMS's obligations under 45 CFR §164.526;
7. Maintain and make available information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to Wise County EMS or an individual who has a right to an accounting within 60 days and as necessary to satisfy Wise County EMS's obligations under 45 CFR §164.528;
8. To the extent that Emergicon, LLC is to carry out any of Wise County EMS's obligations under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, Emergicon, LLC shall comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule that apply to Wise County EMS when it carries out that obligation;
9. Make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, or created or received by Emergicon, LLC on behalf of Wise County EMS, available to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of determining Emergicon, LLC and Wise County EMS's compliance with HIPAA and the HITECH Act;
10. Restrict the use or disclosure of PHI if Wise County EMS notifies Emergicon, LLC of any restriction on the use or disclosure of PHI that Wise County EMS has agreed to or is required to abide by under 45 CFR §164.522; and
11. If Wise County EMS is subject to the Red Flags Rule (found at 16 CFR §681.1 *et seq.*), Emergicon, LLC agrees to assist Wise County EMS in complying with its Red Flags Rule obligations by: (a) implementing policies and procedures to detect relevant Red Flags (as defined under 16 C.F.R. §681.2); (b) taking all steps necessary to comply with the policies and procedures of Wise County EMS's Identity Theft Prevention Program; (c) ensuring that any agent or third party who performs services on its behalf in connection with covered accounts of Wise County EMS agrees to implement reasonable policies and procedures designed to detect, prevent, and mitigate the risk of identity theft; and (d) alerting Wise County EMS of any Red Flag incident (as defined by the Red Flag Rules) of which it becomes aware, the steps it has taken to mitigate any potential harm that may have occurred, and provide a report to Wise County EMS of any threat of identity theft as a result of the incident.

C. Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Business Associate

The specific uses and disclosures of PHI that may be made by Emergicon, LLC on behalf of Wise County EMS include:

1. The preparation of invoices to patients, carriers, insurers and others responsible for payment or reimbursement of the services provided by Wise County EMS to its patients;
2. Preparation of reminder notices and documents pertaining to collections of overdue accounts;
3. The submission of supporting documentation to carriers, insurers and other payers to substantiate the healthcare services provided by Wise County EMS to its patients or to appeal denials of payment for the same; and
4. Other uses or disclosures of PHI as permitted by HIPAA necessary to perform the services that Emergicon, LLC has been engaged to perform on behalf of Wise County EMS.

D. Termination

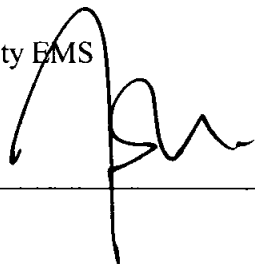
1. Wise County EMS may terminate this Agreement if Wise County EMS determines that Emergicon, LLC has violated a material term of the Agreement.
2. If either party knows of a pattern of activity or practice of the other party that constitutes a material breach or violation of the other party's obligations under this Agreement, that party shall take reasonable steps to cure the breach or end the violation, as applicable, and, if such steps are unsuccessful, terminate the Agreement if feasible.
3. Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Emergicon, LLC shall return to Wise County EMS or destroy all PHI received from Wise County EMS, or created, maintained, or received by Emergicon, LLC on behalf of Wise County EMS that Emergicon, LLC still maintains in any form. Emergicon, LLC shall retain no copies of the PHI. If return or destruction is infeasible, the protections of this Agreement will extend to such PHI.

Agreed to this 11 day of Sept, 2017

Wise County EMS

Emergicon, LLC

Signature: _____



Signature: _____

