

JCSUD's CareFlite Web article 8/24/17

Effective on October 1, 2017, CareFlite will no longer provide 911 responses in Johnson County outside of the City of Cleburne and its ETJ. This decision was made by the Johnson County Commissioners' Court with whom CareFlite contracted for the service for the past 14 years.

CareFlite, which is separately licensed in Cleburne, will continue to offer ground ambulance transports from Texas Health Cleburne as well as providing back up 911 service to Cleburne Fire Rescue. CareFlite will continue to operate its helicopter service in Johnson County and across the region.

The new County provider, AMR, offered service at a lower cost to the County, which the Court chose to accept. While the lower cost is in the financial interest of the County's taxpayers, the transition is expected to maintain a level of service in administering urgent care for patients amid traumatic events as before.

Since 2013, The Johnson County Special Utility District has a voluntary, opt out \$1 per month charge for CareFlite's Membership Program. The program covers CareFlite's air and ground ambulance service wherever it is offered. As an example, CareFlite continues to operate 911/EMS service in Hill County. And it will continue to operate ground ambulance service in Cleburne.

The benefit of the CareFlite membership to JCSUD customers is not having a "balance bill" on any CareFlite air or ground ambulance transport, regardless of the location where it originates. In other words when CareFlite settles with the patient's insurance, which may not have covered 100% of the cost, the patient will not get another bill from CareFlite for the remainder.

Statistics for JCSUD reveals that in the past 12 months, 66% of ambulatory cost for the customer-members came from air flights, while 34% came from ground transports. The reason is the high cost of the air medical transports compared to ground. To summarize, a \$1/mo. premium affords the greatest benefit where air transport works best; whether at the scene of an accident or from one hospital to another.

CareFlite's membership costs \$1 per month per household for JCSUD customers and covers CareFlite's air and ground ambulance service wherever CareFlite offers it. AMR's membership, as shown on their website is \$65 per year per household for those with insurance. For those without, it is believed that the annual membership cost is about \$400 per household. It may be different as contract details may vary.

JCSUD continues to offer the CareFlite membership program for \$1 per month to all of its customers. For questions about CareFlite's Membership Program, please call toll free (877) 339-2273 during regular business hours.