

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid
To: Ambulance Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Reimbursement for Ambulance Emergency and Non-emergency Medical Transportation Ground Services

This *ForwardHealth Update* provides reimbursement information for ambulance providers submitting claims for emergency and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) ground services. This *Update* provides clarification for submitting fee-for-service claims and announces a policy change in the time allowed to acquire a Trip ID for claims submitted to the NEMT manager.

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Emergency Transportation Services

Emergency transportation services are reimbursed either fee-for-service or through the member's HMO or managed care organization (MCO) as applicable. In order to receive reimbursement for emergency mileage for members in fee-for-service, ambulance providers are required to submit the appropriate emergency base rate procedure code with the corresponding mileage procedure code for the level of service provided. Appropriate procedure codes and descriptions for emergency transportation services are included in the Attachment of this *Update*.

Non-emergency Medical Transportation Services

Non-emergency medical transportation services are coordinated through the NEMT manager, Medical Transportation Management Inc. (MTM Inc.), for most members. Ambulance providers may submit claims to fee-for-service or the member's MCO as applicable for NEMT services *not* coordinated through the NEMT manager. For more information about NEMT policy, providers may refer to the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Non-emergency Medical Transportation service area of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/. In order to receive fee-for-service reimbursement for non-emergency mileage, providers are required to submit the appropriate non-emergency base rate procedure code with the corresponding mileage procedure code for the level of service provided. Appropriate procedure codes and descriptions for NEMT services are included in the Attachment.

As a reminder, NEMT by ambulance falls into two categories based on whether or not life support services are required during transport:

- Non-emergency medical transportation requiring life support services (either advanced life support [ALS] or basic life support [BLS]). This category of transportation is always provided by ambulance.

- Non-emergency medical transportation *without* life support services (for a member who requires transportation in a supine position). This category of transportation is provided either by ambulance or by stretcher van.

For information on which services are considered life support services, providers may refer to the Life Support Services topic (topic #1055) of the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Ambulance service area of the Online Handbook.

Policy Change for Services Provided Through the Non-emergency Medical Transportation Manager

Effective for dates of service on and after August 1, 2013, if a hospital, clinic, or other originating facility chooses to coordinate NEMT requiring life support services directly with an ambulance provider, the ambulance provider is required to contact the NEMT manager within *two business days* of dispatching the trip to obtain a trip identification number (trip ID) for claims submission purposes to the NEMT manager. Previously, the ambulance provider was required to contact the NEMT manager within 24 hours of dispatching the trip to obtain a trip ID.

For current policy regarding NEMT by ambulance, providers may refer to the Non-emergency Medical Transportation by Ambulance topic (topic #1049) of the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Ambulance service area of the Online Handbook.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Managed care organizations are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

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ATTACHMENT

Procedure Codes for Ambulance Emergency and Non-emergency Medical Transportation Ground Services

The following table lists appropriate Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes for ambulance providers submitting fee-for-service claims for ambulance emergency and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) ground services. In order to receive reimbursement for mileage, providers are required to submit the appropriate base rate procedure code with the corresponding mileage procedure code for the level of service given.

Emergency Transportation Services by Ambulance	
Service	HCPCS Procedure Code and Description
Basic Life Support Emergency Transport	A0429 (Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport [BLS-Emergency])
	A0380 (BLS mileage [per mile])
Advanced Life Support Emergency Transport	A0427 (Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, Level 1 [ALS1-Emergency])
	A0390 (ALS mileage [per mile])

Non-emergency Medical Transportation Services by Ambulance	
Service	HCPCS Procedure Code and Description
NEMT Basic Life Support Non-emergency Transport	A0428 (Ambulance service, basic life support, non-emergency transport [BLS])
	A0380 (BLS mileage [per mile])
NEMT Advanced Life Support Non-emergency Transport	A0426 (Ambulance service, advanced life support, non-emergency transport, Level 1 [ALS1])
	A0390 (ALS mileage [per mile])
NEMT Without Life Support Services	T2003 (Non-emergency transportation; encounter/trip)
	A0425 (Ground mileage, per statute mile)