



Ground Ambulance transportation- Medicaid coverage

Presenter:

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Ambulance Program & Quality Assurance Fee

Program Manger

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Ambulance Program

Ambulance Transport- Medicaid Reimbursement

Ground Ambulance			
Basic Life Support (BLS)			
A0428	Ambulance service, basic life support, non-emergency transport (BLS)	\$115.34	Origin and destination modifiers required. For each additional client, use modifier GM in addition to the origin and destination modifiers.
A0429	Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS-emergency)	\$115.34	Origin and destination modifiers required. For each additional client, use modifier GM in addition to the origin and destination modifiers.
Advanced Life Support , Level 1 (ALS1)			
A0426	Ambulance service, advanced life support non-emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1)	\$168.43	Origin and destination modifiers required. For each additional client, use modifier GM in addition to the origin and destination modifiers.
A0427	Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1 emergency)	\$168.43	Origin and destination modifiers required. For each additional client, use modifier GM in addition to the origin and destination modifiers.
Advanced Life Support, Level 2 (ALS2)			
A0433	Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 2 (ALS 2)	\$168.43	Origin and destination modifiers required. For each additional client, use modifier GM in addition to the origin and destination modifiers.
Specialty Care			
A0434	Specialty care transport (SCT)	\$168.43	Origin and destination modifiers required. For each additional client, use modifier GM in addition to the origin and destination modifiers.
Mileage			
A0425	Ground mileage, per statute mile	\$5.08/ mile	Origin and destination modifiers required.

- Emergency transports are currently receiving enhanced payments with QAF & GEMT.
- 2023 Legislative session-agency request decision package that could possibly increase non-emergent transports and mileage.

Medicaid Rates- COVID-19 Enhanced during the public health emergency(PHE)

COVID-19			
A0426	COVID-19 related: Ambulance service, advanced life support non-emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1)	\$392.04	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.
A0427	COVID-19 related: Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1 emergency)	\$392.04	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.
A0428	COVID-19 related: Ambulance service, basic life support, non-emergency transport (BLS)	\$328.80	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.
A0429	COVID-19 related: Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS-emergency)	\$328.80	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.
A0433	COVID-19 related: Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 2 (ALS 2)	\$392.04	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.
A0430	COVID-10 related: Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (fixed wing)	\$4,113.91	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.
A0431	COVID-19 related: Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (rotary wing)	\$4,783.47	modifier "CR" and claim notes indicating COVID-19 related transport required.



Ambulance Transport Quality Assurance Fee Program (QAF)

Also referred to as the Ambulance Transport Fund

What is the Quality Assurance Fee Program?

- 2020 Legislative initiated program set to sunset 2024, currently in 2023 legislative session to extend to 2028.
- This program creates a quality assurance fee for private and non-government providers of **emergency ambulance service**.
 - Transport Data is provided quarterly from providers- at real time/end of quarter.
 - Assessment invoices are created quarterly- retro 2 quarters.
- Enhancement payments are added on to base funding, thereby supporting additional Medicaid payments to private and non-government providers.
- Only **emergency** ambulance services are assessed and enhanced.

Quality Assurance Fee Program- details

- Program is mandatory for private and non-government agencies.
- Assess a fee on each Emergent ambulance transport- all payor types- procedure codes A0427, A0429, A0433, A0434. (\$24.50)
- Collected assessments are utilized as state dollars to draw down federal funds. All funds deposited into the Ambulance Transport Fund.
- Enhancement payments are paid from the fund, added to each qualifying Medicaid emergency ambulance transport thru Provider One at real time/ as they are billed. (\$231.23)

QAF example

ABC Ambulance	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR3	QTR4
Transports- all payors	953	831	895	1259
Assesment	\$ 23,348.50	\$ 20,359.50	\$ 21,927.50	\$ 30,845.50
Total assesment				\$ 96,481.00
Medicaid transports	229	249	161	252
Enhancement	\$ 52,886.93	\$ 57,645.64	\$ 37,251.15	\$ 58,223.71
Net Benefit	\$ 29,538.43	\$ 37,286.14	\$ 15,323.65	\$ 27,378.21
Total Annual Net Benefit				\$ 109,526.43

- This example uses an average of 23% Medicaid transports.
- Assessments are paid quarterly.
- Enhancements are paid per claim thru Provider One.
- Companies are required to report how they have allocated their net benefits annually.

Quality Assurance Fee- Net benefits

- In SFY2022, 22 companies participated in the program.
- Average net benefit is \$448,285 annually.
- Total net benefit in SFY 22- all companies- \$9,862,261.
- 72% of the net benefit has been allocated to increased salaries, 11% to administrative, 9% to training, 5% to employee benefits, and 1% each- capital related, consumable supplies and new positions.



Ground Emergency Medical Transport Program (GEMT)

GEMT Program

- The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program was a result of House Bill 2007 and was passed during the 2015-16 legislative session. The GEMT program provides supplemental payments to publicly owned or operated qualified GEMT providers.
- The supplemental payments cover the funding gap between a provider's actual costs per GEMT transport and the allowable amount received from Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) and any other sources of reimbursement.

GEMT Program Eligibility

Provider participation in the GEMT program is voluntary. Providers must meet several requirements to be eligible for the GEMT program, which include:

- Enrollment as a Medicaid provider with an active core provider agreement for the period being claimed;
- Must be a publicly owned or operated organization; and
- Must provide ground emergency transportation to Washington Apple Health Medicaid clients enrolled under Title XIX of the Social Security Act to be eligible for the GEMT program.

GEMT- Supplemental payment formula

ABC Fire Department		
Average Cost Per Transport	\$ 1,200.00	
Qualified Transports	500	
	\$ 600,000.00	
Medicaid paid Per Transport	\$140.00	
Qualified Transports	500	
	\$70,000.00	
FMAP- (federal medical assistance percentage)- 50%		

Formula for GEMT:

(Average cost per transport * number of qualified transports - Medicaid reimbursement for transports) * FMAP = Supplemental Payment

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \$ 600,000.00 \\
 - \quad \$70,000.00 \\
 \hline
 \$ 530,000.00 \\
 \\
 \$ 530,000.00 \\
 \times \quad \quad \quad 50\% \\
 \hline
 \$265,000.00
 \end{array}$$

The GEMT program is a certified public expenditure program. The local governmental unit certifies their cost on the cost report; in return they receive the federal share as a supplemental payment.

Average Costs & Supplemental Payments

- In SFY 2022 the average cost per transport was \$2742.00.
- As of November 2022, GEMT supplemental payments paid to date-grand total \$130,056,665.

Questions?

- Contact Information
 - Ambulance Program & Quality Assurance Fee Program Manger
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