

Bulletin Number: MSA 07-53

Distribution: Ambulance, Hospital, Medicaid Health Plans

Issued: October 1, 2007

Subject: Revision of Ambulance Base Rate Billing Policy

Effective: November 1, 2007

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services, Community Mental Health Services Programs

The purpose of this bulletin is to make ambulance providers aware of a revision in policy concerning what can be billed as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service.

Background

Current Medicaid ambulance policy states that the base rate must reflect the level of service rendered, not the type of vehicle in which the beneficiary was transported, except in those localities where local ordinance requires ALS as the minimum standard of service. Ambulance providers in these localities may bill the ALS rate which most closely fits the services rendered for all emergency transports, regardless of the level of service rendered. For transfers in these localities, the base rate billed must reflect the level of service rendered, not the type of vehicle in which the beneficiary was transferred.

If an ambulance provider has only ALS vehicles, but operates in a locality where both Basic Life Support (BLS) and ALS are available, the base rate billed must reflect the level of service rendered rather than the type of vehicle used.

Policy Change

Effective November 1, 2007, Medicaid policy will be revised to parallel Medicare ambulance policy regarding what can be billed as an ALS service.

Section 2.2 Base Rate of the Ambulance Chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual will be updated to reflect the following:

The base rate for ambulance transports must reflect the level of service rendered, not the type of vehicle in which the beneficiary was transported. Even if a local government requires an ALS response for all calls, Medicaid will only pay the appropriate rate for the level of service required and provided.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Reinhart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "R".

Paul Reinhart, Director
Medical Services Administration