

Bulletin Number: MSA 14-09

Distribution: School Based Services Providers and Billing Agents

Issued: February 28, 2014

Subject: Transportation Policy Clarification

Effective: April 1, 2014

Programs Affected: Medicaid School Based Services

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide policy and reimbursement clarification when transportation is provided to the student by taxi or family owned transportation. Transportation via taxi or family owned vehicle is only reimbursable when no other options are available, or when it is the most cost-effective method of transportation for the school district.

For a taxi or family vehicle transportation expense to be reimbursed, the following documentation must be on file at the local education agency (LEA) or intermediate school district (ISD):

- Specialized transportation must be included in the Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- A Medicaid covered medical service must be provided on the same day as the transportation.
- Dates and times of each trip must be listed on the LEA's or ISD's trip log.
- Documentation from the beneficiary's physician or a school provider treating the student, stating the reason taxi or family transportation is required must be retained in the student's file.
- For transportation by taxi, an additional statement justifying the need for a taxi and the reason other less costly means of transportation cannot be used must be retained in the student's file.
 - For ongoing transportation needs, documentation is only required once per student, per school year.
 - For one-time or occasional use transportation, documentation is required for each trip, or trip period per beneficiary.
- The total number of trips claimed for taxi and family transportation must be included in the Special Education trip count on the Medicaid Allowable Expenditures Report (MAER).

Taxi and family vehicle cost reimbursement will be retroactive to July 1, 2012 if the proper documentation has been retained, and a claim for the trip has been approved through the Community Health Automated Medicaid Payment System (CHAMPS). Claims must be filed within one year from the date of service according to Medicaid timely filing requirements.

Non-covered Transportation

Transportation by stretcher car is not covered. The term "stretcher car" is defined as a vehicle capable of transporting a patient (student) in a prone or supine position (e.g., Ambucab).

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



Stephen Fitton, Director
Medical Services Administration