

Bulletin Number: MSA 16-28

Distribution: MI Choice Waiver Agencies, Centers for Independent Living, Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) Holders, Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Contractor

Issued: September 1, 2016

Subject: MI Choice Waiver NEMT Updates

Effective: As Indicated

Programs Affected: MI Choice

NOTE: Implementation of this policy is contingent upon approval of a waiver amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform MI Choice waiver agencies, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) local offices, and Medicaid transportation contractor staff of changes to transportation policy. Based on the implementation schedule below, MI Choice participants will obtain authorization for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) from waiver agencies instead of from MDHHS local offices or the Medicaid NEMT contractor. Waiver agencies will pay for authorized NEMT services using funds incorporated into their capitation payment.

Refer to the MI Choice Waiver Chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy and Forms for additional information regarding the MI Choice program. Refer to the MDHHS BAM 825 at www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/BP/Public/BAM/000.pdf for additional information regarding Medicaid Fee-For-Service NEMT policy.

Implementation Schedule

In the phase-in schedule for the counties identified below, NEMT will be included as a service under the MI Choice waiver, with waiver agencies in those counties being responsible for authorizing NEMT for their participants. MI Choice waiver participants residing in the participating counties will no longer secure authorization of NEMT via their local MDHHS office.

Phase 1 will begin on October 1, 2016, and will include the following counties: Antrim, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoix, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kalkaska, Lapeer, Leelanau, Lenawee, Manistee, Midland, Missaukee, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, and Wexford.

Phase 2 will begin on April 1, 2017, and will and include all remaining Michigan counties: Alcona, Alger, Allegan, Alpena, Arenac, Baraga, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Kalamazoo, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Livingston, Luce, Mackinac, Macomb, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Schoolcraft, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

NEMT is defined in 42 CFR 431.53 and 42 CFR 440.170 and includes expenses for transportation and other related travel expenses determined necessary to secure medical examinations, documentation, or treatment for a MI Choice participant. Waiver agencies will ensure MI Choice participants have access to NEMT as needed to obtain medical services. Utilization of family, friends or community agencies who provide transportation services without charge must be explored before MI Choice will authorize NEMT. Additionally, delivery services for medical items, such as medical supplies or prescriptions, should be utilized before authorizing NEMT through the MI Choice program.

NEMT includes, but is not limited to, transportation to obtain the following medical services:

- Chronic and ongoing treatment,
- Prescriptions,
- Medical supplies and devices,
- One time, occasional and ongoing visits for medical care, and
- Services received at a Veteran Affairs hospital.

Travel expenses related to the provision of NEMT include:

- The cost of transportation for the MI Choice participant by wheelchair vans, taxis, bus passes and tickets, secured transportation containing an occupant protection system that addresses safety needs of disabled or special needs individuals, and other forms of transportation,
- Mileage reimbursement for individuals or volunteers with a valid driver's license utilizing personal vehicles to transport the MI Choice participant,
- The cost of meals and lodging en route to and from medical care, and while receiving medical care,
- The cost of an attendant to accompany the MI Choice participant, if necessary,
- The cost of the attendant's transportation, meals, and lodging, and
- The attendant's salary, if the attendant is not a volunteer or a member of the MI Choice participant's family.

NEMT provider standards differ from other waiver service provider standards and will be outlined in the contract between MDHHS and waiver agencies.

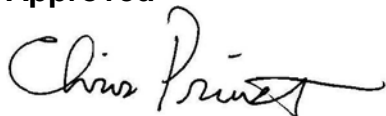
Manual Maintenance

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

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, 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 "Chris Priest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chris Priest, Director
Medical Services Administration