



September 10, 2021

All Georgia Ambulance Providers

RE: Ground Ambulance Assessment and Payment Program

Dear Ambulance Provider,

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is in the process of developing the Ground Ambulance Assessment and Payment Program. This supplemental payment program and funding mechanism will provide a new Medicaid funding pool that will allow DCH to increase payments to Georgia's private ambulance providers for certain ground ambulance services offered to Medicaid beneficiaries. The purpose of the supplemental payment is to provide additional Medicaid reimbursement to ensure access to ambulance services for Medicaid enrollees.

Background

DCH received approval through House Bill 271 of the 2021-2022 regular session of the Georgia Assembly to develop an assessment program for the purpose of funding the state share of Medicaid supplemental payments for ambulance providers. The legislation authorizes DCH to implement the assessment program on a subset of ambulance services, and DCH intends to implement the assessment program for privately-owned (private) ambulance providers. Myers and Stauffer is assisting DCH with the design and development of the program.

Program Approval Requirements

Once developed, the program for supplemental payments will be subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Likewise, the assessment to fund the matching payments for federal financial participation must meet the Medicaid funding rules of CMS.

In order for DCH to comply with all CMS requirements for approval, information is needed from all ambulance providers, regardless of ownership status and Medicaid participation status.

Data Collection

To develop a program specific to the State of Georgia, revenue, transport and commercial payment data will be collected. Revenue and transport information will be needed from all providers, while commercial payment information will be needed only from private providers. The financial survey is downloadable on the DCH website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/ground->

[ambulance-upl](#). All required schedules and documentation must be submitted electronically through the Myers and Stauffer secure FTP portal as described in the document instructions. The due date for submission is October 5, 2021.

Program Funding

An assessment will be collected by DCH from private ambulance providers to fund the state share of payments that will then be matched with federal program dollars for Medicaid payments directed to the private ambulance providers. DCH will be designing the funding program along with the supplemental payments program. Because providers will be required to pay an assessment in addition to receiving supplemental payments, design models will serve to inform DCH and stakeholders of projected impacts by provider. DCH will seek input from stakeholders on the program design.

Payments

At this time, the supplemental payment will apply to the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) program only. The supplemental payment is in addition to the claim payment a provider receives when submitting FFS claims for ambulance services. The supplemental payment will not exceed an established upper payment limit (UPL). The UPL will be modeled based on commercial rate information through the calculation of an average commercial rate (ACR) for each applicable ambulance service. The following ambulance services are targeted for design of the program:

- A0425 - Mileage
- A0426 - Advanced Life Support (ALS, Non-Emergency)
- A0427 - Advanced Life Support (ALS, Level 1, Emergency)
- A0428 - Basic Life Support (BLS, Non-Emergency)
- A0429 - Basic Life Support (BLS, Emergency)
- A0433 - Advanced Life Support, Level 2 (ALS Level 2, Emergency)
- A0434 - Specialty Care Transport

All Ambulance Providers (Public and Private)

For this program, all ground ambulance providers must submit to Myers and Stauffer the following:

- Schedule 1 Provider Information and Certification
- Schedule 2 Revenue and Transport Service Data

Private Ambulance Providers

Private ambulance providers are those providers that are not owned by a unit of government. Private ground ambulance providers must submit the following:

- Schedule 1 Provider Information and Certification
- Schedule 2 Revenue and Transport Service Data
- Schedule 3 Commercial Payer Rates
- Supporting Rate Documentation

Supplemental payments will be based on commercial rate information through the calculation of an average commercial rate (ACR) for each applicable ambulance service. Schedule 3 of the survey will collect the information needed from private ambulance providers for each ACR calculation. Commercial rate information is needed to verify that the payments received by providers are in compliance with federal expectations and limits.

Training

A virtual training webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. EDT to provide instruction on completing and submitting the survey and supporting documentation. Webinar information for the provider training is as follows:

Meeting link: <https://mslc.webex.com/mslc/j.php?MTID=m96ef080fe190d1d28696a69f4c87ccd2>

Meeting number: 161 473 6130

To join by phone: 1-844-740-1264; Access code: 161 473 6130

Updates on this program and program timeline information will be posted as they become available on the DCH website, at the following link: <https://dch.georgia.gov/ground-ambulance-upl>. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Kim Morris, Director of Reimbursement, via email at Kim.Morris@dch.ga.gov or Angelica Clark, Senior Manager, via email at AClark@dch.ga.gov. If you have any questions about the financial survey, please contact Myers and Stauffer at GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com.

Sincerely,

Myers and Stauffer LC