



EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES

Brief Coverage Statement

Emergency ambulance service is a component of the Colorado Medicaid Medical Transportation benefit. Emergency ambulance service is available when the client's condition requires immediate medical attention.

Services Addressed in Other Policies

- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services

Eligible Providers

- Ambulances must be licensed, operated, and equipped according to federal and state regulations, including but not limited to 6 CCR 1015-3.
- Ambulances must be staffed and operated by trained and certified personnel
 - At minimum, ambulances must be staffed by two emergency medical technicians (EMTs). One technician must accompany the patient at all times.

Eligible Places of Services

Emergency transportation from the following locals:

- Location of emergency
- Nursing Facility
- Hospital

To the nearest appropriately designated hospital that is equipped to treat the client's condition immediately upon arrival.

Eligible Clients

Emergency ambulance service is a benefit for all Colorado Medical Assistance Program clients who have a critical or unknown illness or injury that demands immediate medical attention to prevent permanent injury or loss of life.



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Covered Services and Limitations

The service must be supported by a 'Trip Report' retained by the transportation provider, as described in 6 CCR 1015-3

GROUND AMBULANCE

Ground ambulance benefits include:

- Transportation to the closest, most appropriate facility.
- Basic or advanced life support that is required during transport.
- Critical Care Transportation- facility to facility transport requiring medical care above that offered via non-emergency medical transportation. Please see definition section.

AIR AMBULANCE

Air ambulance benefits are provided when:

- The point of pick up is inaccessible by a land vehicle.
- Great distances or other obstacles prohibit transporting the client by land to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

Air ambulance benefits include:

- Basic or advanced life support that is required during transport.
- Critical Care Transport- when medically necessary to reach the closest, most appropriate facility.

Prior Authorization Requirements

Prior Authorization is not required for ground and air ambulance in emergency situations or for hospital to hospital transport including critical care cases. Medicaid will not reimburse for ambulance services that are considered Non-Covered. See Non-Covered Services.

Non-Covered Services and General Limitations

- Waiting time, cancellations or unapproved additional passengers.
- Response calls to emergency locations when no transportation is needed or approved.
- Charges when client is not in the vehicle.
- Non-benefit services (e.g. first aid) provided at the scene when transportation is not necessary.
- Transportation which is covered by another entity (e.g. transportation provided by the Veterans Administration or a school).
- Transportation to local treatment programs not enrolled in Colorado Medical Assistance Program.
- Transportation of a client who has been pronounced deceased at the time that the ambulance arrives.



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- Pick up or delivery of prescriptions and/or supplies.
- Transportation arranged for a client's convenience when there is no reasonable risk of permanent injury or loss of life.
- Transportation to non-emergency medical appointments.

Definitions

Advanced Life Support: means special services designed to provide definitive medical care en route from the client's pickup point to the medical facility or during inter-facility transfers and until responsibility for medical care is assumed by the staff of the receiving medical facility. During non-emergency medical transportation, ALS services may include cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring en route, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, chemical restraints, administration of specified drugs and other invasive techniques.

Transport of clients requiring cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring is considered to be non-emergency only if such monitoring is required both before and after transport. Advanced airway management shall include clients who are ventilator dependent, require intubation and/or deep suctioning en route, or are on an apnea monitor before, during and after transport. Administration of intravenous (IV) medication en route shall not include self-administered IV medications.

Air Ambulance: a helicopter or airplane designed and used to provide transportation for the ill and injured, and to provide personnel, facilities, and equipment to treat clients before and during transportation. Air ambulance is considered an ALS service or critical care transport when medically necessary.

Ambulance: any publicly or privately owned vehicle that is specially designed, constructed, modified or equipped to be used, maintained and operated on streets or highways to transport clients to a hospital or other treatment facility in cases of accident, trauma or severe illness.

Basic Life Support: transportation by an ambulance vehicle and medically necessary supplies and services to include cardiopulmonary resuscitation as required to maintain life during transport from the client's pickup point to the provider's facility or during an inter-facility transfer, without cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring or other invasive techniques. Services during BLS transport may include suctioning en route (not deep suctioning) and airway control/positioning.

Critical Care Transport: Ambulance transportation during which a client receives specialized care for conditions that are life-threatening and who require comprehensive care and constant monitoring; from a stabilizing hospital to a hospital with full capabilities for the clients case.

Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-Basic): an individual who has a current and valid EMT-Basic certificate issued by the Department and who is authorized to provide basic emergency medical care in accordance with Board of Medical Examiner rules.



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Emergency Medical Transportation: ambulance transportation during which a client receives needed emergency medical services en route to an appropriate medical facility

Ground Ambulance: a ground vehicle, including a water ambulance, designed and used to transport the ill and injured and to provide personnel, facilities, and equipment to treat clients before and during transportation

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT): transportation to or from medical treatment that is not emergency in nature. Non-emergency care may be scheduled or unscheduled.

References

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Corporate Medical Policy: Ambulance and Medical Transportation Services. Effective January 2008

Colorado Department of Public Health - Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services: 6 CCR 1015-3. Effective 30 December 2009

Colorado Specialty Billing Manual CO-1500: Ambulance Transportation Services

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance - Provider Manual Series: Transportation Manual. Effective October 2003

Kaiser Permanente: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado – Evidence of Coverage Handbook: Ambulance and Transportation Services. Effective January 2009

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 388-546: Transportation Services

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Medicaid Director Signature

A handwritten date in black ink, written as '2/22/12'.

Date