

# Behavioral Health Secure Transportation (BHST) 101

# BHST Basics

[House Bill 21-1085](#) directed HCPF to implement a behavioral health secure transportation paid benefit by July 1, 2023.

CDPHE Rule [6 CCR 1011-4](#)

County Regulated

Goals

- New alternative option for secure transportation throughout levels of behavioral health care
- Administratively simple
- Billed separately from other services, including Mobile Crisis Response (MCR)

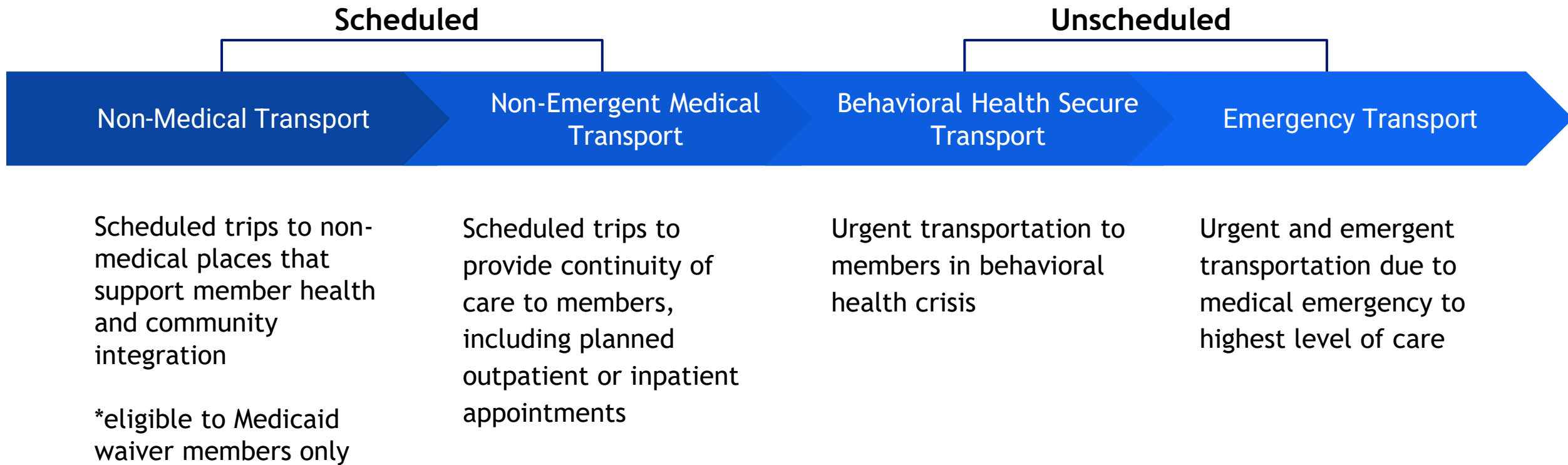
HCPF has developed this new benefit for Medicaid members in alignment with mobile crisis response and transportation best practices.

HCPF Rule [CCR 10 CCR 2505-10 8.000](#)

# Current Responsibilities

CDPHE	Data Collection
HCPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reimbursement strategy</li><li>• State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act report</li></ul>
BHA	Reimbursement strategy and best practices
Counties	License BHST providers and permit BHST vehicles
BHST Providers	Obtain BHST licenses and permits from each county of planned operation and enroll as a HCPF provider

# Medicaid Transportation Spectrum



# Medicaid Eligibility

A Colorado Medicaid member is eligible for Secure Transportation Services if the member is in a Behavioral Health Crisis. A Behavioral Health Crisis may be established by:

- an intervening professional
- crisis professional
- independent professional person
- certified peace officer
- an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider

\*prior authorization is not required

# Covered Services

- Voluntary and involuntary transportation
- Transportation from the site of the behavioral health crisis to the closest, most appropriate facility
- Transportation between the following types of facilities
  - An emergency medical services facility, including but not limited to: hospitals, hospital units, freestanding emergency departments, psychiatric hospitals, community clinics, behavioral health entities, crisis stabilization units, or acute treatment units.
  - A facility designated to treat individuals receiving involuntary treatment;
  - An approved substance use disorder treatment facility
  - A walk-in crisis center (WIC)
  - A behavioral health entity (BHE) licensed with a current twenty-four (24) hour endorsement

# Non-Covered Services

- Charges when the member is not in the vehicle
- Health First Colorado Medicaid Member directed requests for BHST
- Transportation arranged for a member's convenience when the member is not in behavioral health crisis
- Transportation when the member is chemically restrained
- Transportation where restraints were used within the context of a voluntary transport
- Transportation when the member requires medical treatment, or active or ongoing medical monitoring
- Transportation provided by law enforcement
- Transportation after discharge from a hospital, which is considered [Urgent NEMT](#)

\*additional exclusions noted the [BHST Billing Manual webpage](#)

# Medicaid Reimbursement

## Behavioral Health Secure Transport

Urgent transportation to members in behavioral health crisis

- No payment differential based on licensure nor vehicle type
- Moving from a Fee For Service rate to a Capitation Rate on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Billing Codes
  - A0999 Modifier ET
  - A0425 Modifier ET
  - If Mileage one way is over 250 miles a mileage verification form must be submitted Provider Forums Web page



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# BHST Flexibility & Versatility

**Type 1 Vehicle** means a permitted vehicle with a permanent safety partition that separates the driver from the passenger compartment.  
**1:1 Staff ratio**

**Type 2 Vehicle** means a permitted, non-partitioned vehicle.  
**1:1 Staff ratio plus Driver**

**Class A** means secure transportation services licensed to use physical restraint during secure transport

Capacity to restrain in a partitioned vehicle

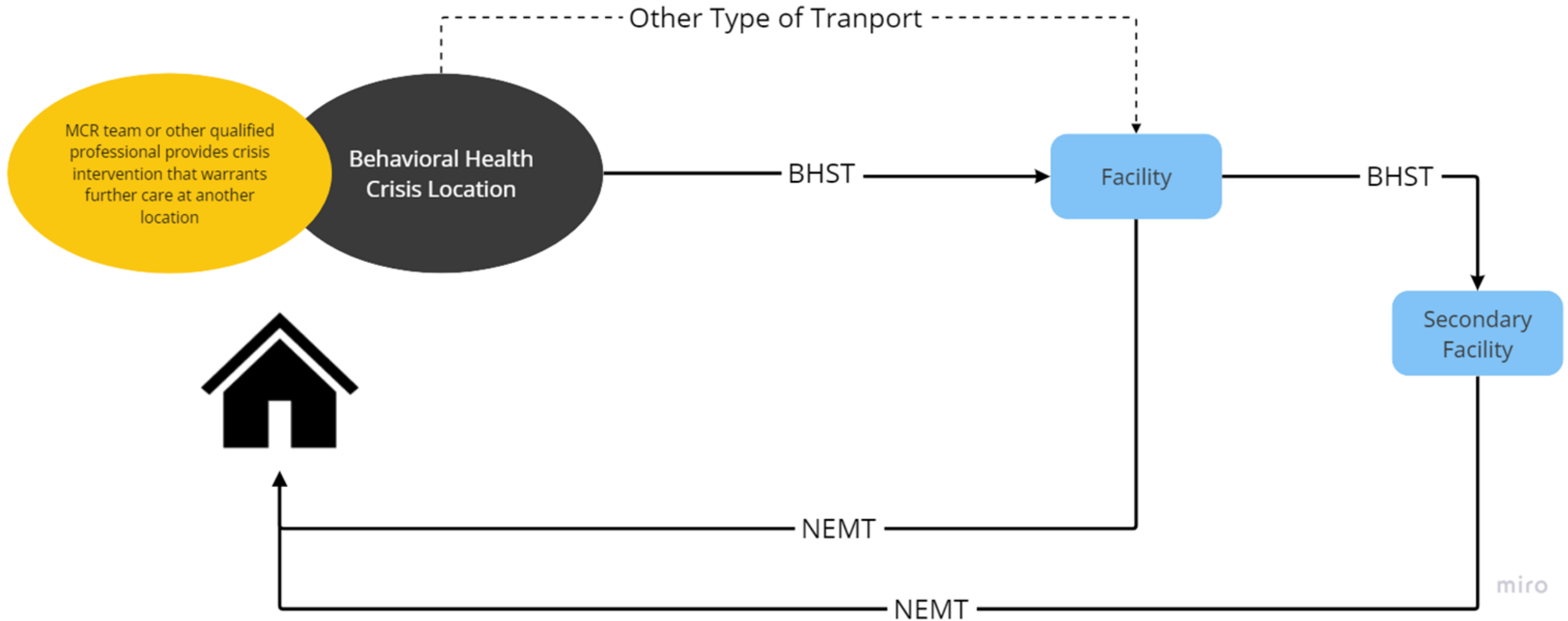
Capacity to restrain in a non-partitioned vehicle

**Class B** means secure transportation services that are not licensed to use physical restraint during secure transport.

No capacity to restrain in a partitioned vehicle

No capacity to restrain in a non-partitioned vehicle

# MCR & BHST Interaction



# HCPF Websites

- [Crisis Services](#)
  - <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/crisisservices>
  - Provides overview
  - Links to engagement forums
- [Crisis Services Provider Page](#)
  - <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/bhcrisisservicesproviders>
  - Lists various crisis services by community-based, facility-based, and transportation options
  - [HCPF Crisis Services Hospital Billing Guidance Aug. 2023](#)
  - Link to [NEMT Providers](#) (for transportation after discharge)
- [MCR](#)
  - <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/mobilecrisisresponse>
  - Lists HCPF enrolled MCR providers
- [BHST](#)
  - <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/securetransport>
  - Lists HCPF enrolled BHST providers



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**HCPF Crisis Services Monthly Open Office** hours is an informal, unrecorded meeting where stakeholders can ask questions and troubleshoot issues about Health First Colorado benefits. The meetings occur on the second Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon. Register in advance for this meeting.