

# M e m o r a n d u m

To: Darlene Shamblin, Acordia National

From: Gloria Long, Member Services Administrator

Date: October 15, 2001 (Revised from September 25, 2001 Memo)

December 29, 2006 (Revised from October 29, 2001)

Re: Reimbursement for Ground Ambulance Services

**Below is the information that was mailed to WV ambulance providers last week. This is the fee schedule PEIA will use for services provided on/after October 1, 2001.**

Effective for services incurred on or after October 1, 2001, PEIA's reimbursement for medically necessary ground ambulance transportation will comprise a base rate + mileage. The base rate includes all medically necessary items and services (e.g., supplies, drugs, extra attendants) furnished during or in connection with transport. Charges for oxygen, code A0422, will be reimbursed only when billed in conjunction with non-emergency BLS, emergency BLS and non-emergency ALS services. Charges for ground ambulance services must be submitted using the following codes:

Code	Description	Maximum Allowance October 1,2001	Reimbursement for Oxygen, Code A0422
<b>BLS Services</b>			
A0428	BLS non-emergency*	112.50	25.00 per unit up to a maximum of 4 units
A0429	BLS emergency	112.50	25.00 per unit up to a maximum of 4 units
<b>ALS Services</b>			
A0426	ALS non-emergency*	112.50	25.00 per unit up to a maximum of 4 units
A0427	ALS emergency	377.50	N/A
A0433	ALS level 2	377.50	N/A
A0434	Specialty Care Transport**	477.50	N/A
<b>Mileage</b>			
A0425	Ground Mileage	5.00 per mile	N/A

\* PEIA covers medically necessary, non-emergency transportation from a hospital to the nearest facility able to provide services not available at the transferring hospital or facility, for a patient who is bed-confined at the time the service is provided. To be considered bed-confined, the patient must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Unable to get up from bed without assistance AND
- Unable to ambulate AND
- Unable to sit in a chair or wheelchair.

\*\*Requires submission of supportive documentation

PEIA expects ground ambulance providers to bill using the charges on file with the WV Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) at the time the service is incurred. Be sure to choose the 2001 HCPCS code that describes the level of ground ambulance service provided to the patient for the situation, either emergency or non-emergency. An emergency service is one provided after an acute medical condition resulting from injury, sickness, pregnancy, or mental illness arises suddenly and unexpectedly and requires immediate care and treatment to prevent death, severe disability, or impairment of bodily function.

The HCPCS two character modifiers should be used to identify the origin and destination for transportation services. The first character is the origin (from) and the second character is the destination (to) of the trip. Some common modifiers include:

- D Diagnostic or therapeutic site
- E Residential, domiciliary, custodial facility
- G Hospital-based dialysis facility
- H Hospital
- I Site of transfer between modes of ambulance transport
- J Non-hospital based dialysis facility
- N Skilled nursing facility (SNF)
- P Physician's office
- R Residence
- S Scene of accident or acute event

Some common modifier combinations include:

- EH From an ECF to hospital
- HE From hospital to ECF
- PH From a physician's office to a hospital
- RH From a patient's residence to a hospital
- SH From the scene of an accident to a hospital
- XT May be added to other modifiers (in the first position) for a second trip in the same day for the same patient

Questions regarding ambulance services may be directed to Acordia National at 888-440-7342.

December 29, 2006 Revision increased the mileage (A0425) from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per mile.

CC: Tanya Cyrus, PEIA Nurse Analyst  
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