

**CHAPTER 10: MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION****SECTION 10.7: AMBULANCE OVERVIEW****PAGE(S) 2****AMBULANCE OVERVIEW**

Ambulance transportation is emergency or non-emergency medical transportation provided to Medicaid beneficiaries to and/or from a Medicaid covered service by ground or air ambulance when the beneficiary's condition is such that use of any other method of transportation is contraindicated or would make the beneficiary susceptible to injury.

To participate in the Medicaid program, ambulance providers must meet the requirements of La. R.S. 40:1135.1 – 1135.4. Licensing by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is also required. Services must be provided in accordance with state law and regulations governing the administration of these services. Additionally, licensure is required for the medical technicians and other ambulance personnel by the LDH EMS.

The transportation broker shall require non-emergency ambulance transportation (NEAT) ambulance providers to maintain insurance, including but not limited to medical malpractice liability, automobile liability, commercial general liability, and workers' compensation indemnity, in accordance with La. R.S. 40:1135.9 and any applicable federal or state law or local ordinance.

Coverage information by enrollment type is provided in the following matrix:

<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Non-Emergency Ambulance</b>	<b>Emergency Ambulance</b>
<b>Managed care - physical and behavioral health</b>	MCO	MCO
<b>Managed care - physical health only (CSoc children)</b>	MCO	MCO
<b>Managed care - behavioral health only</b>	MCO	FFS Medicaid
<b>Nursing home residents</b>	MCO	MCO for month of admission*; FFS Medicaid for subsequent months
<b>Children in ICF-IIDs<sup>†</sup></b>	MCO	FFS Medicaid
<b>Adults in ICF-IIDs<sup>†</sup></b>	FFS Medicaid <sup>^</sup>	FFS Medicaid
<b>Excluded populations</b>	FFS Medicaid <sup>^</sup>	FFS Medicaid

<sup>†</sup> Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

<sup>^</sup> Verida (formerly Southeastrans) is currently authorizing and reimbursing for these transportation services covered by FFS Medicaid.

\*During the single transitional month where an enrollee is both in a P-linkage and certified in LTC, the MCO will remain responsible for all transportation services that are not the responsibility of the nursing facility.

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Reimbursement to ambulance providers shall be no less than the published Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) rate in effect on the date of service, unless mutually agreed upon by the transportation broker and the transportation provider in the provider agreement.

Terms utilized in the published Medicaid fee schedule are defined as follows:

1. ***Basic Life Support (BLS)***<sup>1</sup>: The provision of medically necessary supplies and services by EMS practitioners who are licensed at least to the level of an emergency medical technician;
2. ***Advanced Life Support (ALS)***<sup>2</sup>: The provision of medically necessary supplies and services by EMS practitioners who are licensed at least to the level of an advanced emergency technician or equivalent; and
3. ***Specialty Care Transport***<sup>3</sup>: Inter-facility transportation of a critically injured or ill beneficiary by a ground ambulance vehicle, including medically necessary supplies and services, at a level of service beyond the scope of the EMT-paramedic.

Ambulance providers may bill for mileage to the nearest appropriate facility. Reimbursement for mileage will vary depending on whether the transport is for an emergency or non-emergency event.

Reimbursement for mileage will be limited to actual mileage from point of pick up to point of delivery. Mileage can only be billed for miles traveled with the beneficiary in the ambulance.

Reimbursement for transportation of ambulance staff, medical staff, or other personnel when the beneficiary is not onboard the ambulance, both ground and air, is prohibited.

**Note:** Refer to Section 25.2 of the *Hospital Services* provider manual chapter for policies related to hospital-based ambulance services.

<sup>1</sup> Defined by La. R.S. 40:1131.

<sup>2</sup> Defined by La. R.S. 40:1131.

<sup>3</sup> Defined by 42 C.F.R. §414.605.