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**CHAPTER 10: MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION**

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**SECTION 10.10: AMBULANCE - AIR AMBULANCE****PAGE(S) 1**

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### **AIR AMBULANCE**

Air ambulances may be used for emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation when medically necessary. Licensure by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is required. Licensure for air ambulance services is governed by La. R.S. 40:1135.8. Rotor winged (helicopters) and fixed winged emergency aircraft must be certified by the Bureau of Health Services Financing in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement.

All air ambulance services must comply with state laws and regulations governing the personnel certifications of the emergency medical technicians, registered nurses, respiratory care technicians, physicians, and pilots as administered by the appropriate agency of competent jurisdiction.

Air ambulance services are covered only if the following criteria are met:

- Speedy admission of the beneficiary is essential and the point of pick-up of the beneficiary is inaccessible by a land vehicle; or
- Great distances or other obstacles are involved in getting the beneficiary to the nearest hospital with appropriate services.

If both land and air ambulance transport are necessary during the same trip, each type of provider will be reimbursed separately according to regulations for that type of provider.