

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing****Ground Ambulance Provider Fees and Enhanced Reimbursements for Qualifying Ground Ambulance Service Providers (LAC 48:I.4001 and 50.XXVII.331)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 48:I.4001 and 50.XXVII.331 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 46:2625 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

Act 299 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature directs the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing to amend the provisions governing the health care service provider fees for ground ambulance service providers to include non-emergency ground ambulance services, and to include non-emergency ground ambulance services in enhanced reimbursement for emergency ground ambulance transportation services. In order to comply with the requirements of Act 299, the department amends the provisions governing provider fees and emergency medical transportation enhanced reimbursements.

This action is being taken in order to secure enhanced federal funding. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will increase revenue collections in the Medicaid Program by approximately \$13,310,860 and increase expenditures by \$13,310,860 for state fiscal year 2019-2020.

Effective July 1, 2019, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing healthcare service provider fees and emergency medical transportation.

Title 48**PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE****Part I. General Administration****Subpart 1. General****Chapter 40. Provider Fees****§4001. Specific Fees****A. Definitions**

Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Provider—a non-public, non-federal provider of emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance services.

B. – D. ...

E. Emergency and Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Services. Effective August 1, 2016, a fee shall be imposed on emergency ground ambulance service providers for emergency ground ambulance services in accordance with R.S. 46:2626. Effective July 1, 2019, this fee shall also include non-emergency ambulance services.

1. The total assessment for the initial state fiscal year in which the assessment is charged shall not exceed the lesser of the following:

a. ...

b. 1 1/2 percent of the net operating revenue of all emergency ground ambulance service providers assessed

relating to the provision of emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation.

2. Except for the first year maximum fee of 1 1/2 percent of the net operating revenue, the department shall not impose any new fee or increase any fee on any emergency ground ambulance service provider on or after July 1, 2016, without first obtaining either of the following:

a. ...

b. written agreement of those providers subject to the fee which provide a minimum of 65 percent of the emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transports.

3. After the initial year of assessment, the assessment shall be a percentage fee, determined at the discretion of the secretary and subject to the provisions below in collaboration with the express and written mutual agreement of the emergency ground ambulance service providers subject to the assessment and which make up a minimum of 65 percent of all emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transports in the state of Louisiana.

a. ...**4. Repealed.****F. - F.5. ...**

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Chapter 45 of Title 46 as enacted in 1992, 46:2601-2605, redesignated as Chapter 47 of Title 46, containing R.S. 46:2621 to 46:2625 and P.L. 102-234.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Management and Finance, LR 19:347 (March 1993), amended LR 20:51 (January 1994), LR 26:1478 (July 2000), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 33:100 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1887, 1888 (November 2016), LR 43:73 (January 2017), repromulgated LR 43:323 (February 2017), amended LR 44:1015 (June 2018), LR 44:1894 (October 2018), LR 45:

Title 50**PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE****Part XXVII. Medical Transportation Program****Chapter 3. Emergency Medical Transportation
Subchapter B. Ground Transportation****§331. Enhanced Reimbursements for Qualifying
Emergency Ground Ambulance Service
Providers****A. Emergency Medical Transportation**

1. Qualifying emergency ambulance service providers assessed a fee as outlined in LAC 48:I.4001.E.1.a-b shall receive enhanced reimbursement for emergency ground ambulance transportation services rendered during the quarter through the Supplemental Payment Program described in the Medicaid State Plan.

2. Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2019, qualifying emergency ambulance service providers assessed a fee as outlined in LAC 48:I.4001.E.1.a-d shall receive enhanced reimbursement for non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services rendered during the quarter through the Supplemental Payment Program described in the Medicaid State Plan.

B. - B.4. ...**C. Payment Methodology**

1. Payment will include non-emergency ground ambulance services after July 1, 2019. The enhanced reimbursement to each qualifying emergency ground ambulance service provider shall not exceed the sum of the

difference between the Medicaid payments otherwise made to these providers for the provision of emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services and the average amount that would have been paid at the equivalent community rate.

2. - 2.a. ...

3. The specific methodology to be used in establishing the enhanced reimbursement payment for ambulance providers is as follows.

a. The department shall identify Medicaid ambulance service providers that qualify to receive enhanced reimbursement Medicaid payments for the provision of emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services.

b. For each Medicaid ambulance service provider identified to receive enhanced reimbursement Medicaid payments, the department shall identify the emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services for which the provider is eligible to be reimbursed.

c. For each Medicaid ambulance service provider described in Subparagraph C.3.a of this Section, the department shall calculate the reimbursement paid to the provider for the provision of emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services identified under Subparagraph C.3.b of this Section.

d. ...

e. For each Medicaid ambulance service provider described in Subparagraph C.3.a of this Section, the department shall subtract an amount equal to the reimbursement calculation for each of the emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services under Subparagraph C.3.c of this Section from an amount equal to the amount calculated for each of the emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services under Subparagraph C.3.d of this Section.

f. For each Medicaid ambulance service provider described in Subparagraph C.3.a of this Section, the department shall calculate the sum of each of the amounts calculated for emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services under Subparagraph C.3.e. of this Section.

g. - h. ...

D. Effective Date of Payment

1. The enhanced reimbursement payment shall be made effective for emergency ground ambulance transportation services provided on or after August 1, 2016, and for non-emergency ground transportation services provided after July 1, 2019. This payment is based on the average amount that would have been paid at the equivalent community rate.

2. After the initial calculation for fiscal year 2015-2016 for emergency ground ambulance transportation services and after the initial calculation for fiscal year 2019-2020 for non-emergency ground ambulance transportation services, the department will rebase the equivalent community rate using adjudicated claims data for services from the most recently completed fiscal year. This calculation may be made annually but shall be made no less than every three years.

E. - E.1. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1890 (November 2016).

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH
Secretary

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