

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

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EFFECTIVE DATE

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SUBJECT

Payment for Non-Emergency Transportation
Services

BY



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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify who is responsible for payment of medically necessary non-emergency transportation services provided to Medical Assistance (MA) recipients residing in MA participating nursing facilities.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all nursing facilities and ambulance providers enrolled in the MA Program that provide non-emergency transportation services to MA nursing facility recipients in the Fee-For-Service delivery system, including ACCESS Plus, and the managed care delivery system.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Under the MA Program it is the responsibility of participating nursing facilities to provide non-emergency transportation for their MA nursing facility residents. This includes, but is not limited to, transportation to and from doctor appointments, dentist appointments, partial hospitalization treatment programs, non-emergency ambulance transportation from a nursing facility to a hospital and from a hospital to a nursing facility. All transportation provided to MA nursing facility residents must be provided in a safe and orderly manner consistent with the resident's needs. Nursing facilities may purchase this service through contract, per trip payment, or by their own vehicles. If an outside vendor is used to supply non-emergency transportation to the residents, the nursing facility must pay for the cost of the transportation service. The nursing facility shall not bill the MA resident for this service.

PROCEDURE:

In accordance with 55 Pa. Code § 1187.51 (relating to scope), non-emergency transportation is an allowable MA cost and should be reported by the nursing facility on the facility's annual MA cost report (MA-11). These costs are considered when establishing a

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nursing facility's MA per diem rate.

If an ambulance company is used for non-emergency transportation services for MA nursing facility residents, the ambulance company may not directly bill the MA Program. The nursing facility must pay the ambulance company for these services, and include such costs on its MA-11.

This MA Bulletin obsoletes the following:

- MA Bulletin 03-06-15 titled "Reimbursement for Non-Emergency Transportation Services"
- MA Bulletin 18-94-01 titled "Clarification of Bulletin 18-93-01"
- MA Bulletin 18-93-01 titled "Payment for Non-emergency Transportation for Nursing Home Patients."