

**Managed Care Operations Memorandum**  
**General Operations**  
**MCOPS Memo # 12/2018-023**

**Date:** December 20, 2018

**Subject:** Increased Rates for Ambulance Services, Effective January 1, 2019

**To:** Physical Health HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (PH-MCOs) - Statewide

**From:** Laurie Rock, Director, Bureau of Managed Care Operations, Office of Medical Assistance Programs

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**Purpose:**

To inform PH-MCOs of the mandated fee increases for ambulance transportation services effective January 1, 2019.

**Background:**

[The act of June 22, 2018](#) (P.L. 281, No. 42)(Act 42) provides for payment for ambulance transportation, effective with dates of service on or after January 1, 2019, at specific increased rates, as follows:

(v.1) From money appropriated for medical assistance capitation, sufficient funds are included to provide rates for ambulance transportation at the following amounts, beginning on January 1, 2019:

- (A) For basic life support, not less than \$180 per loaded trip.
- (B) For advanced life support, not less than \$300 per loaded trip.
- (C) For air ambulance transport, not less than \$3,325.53 per loaded trip.
- (D) For ground mileage, not less than \$2 per mile for each loaded mile beyond 20 loaded miles.
- (E) For air mileage, not less than \$22.45 per mile for each loaded mile beyond 20 loaded miles.

**Discussion:**

For all claims submitted for dates of service on or after January 1, 2019, PH-MCOs shall pay providers of ambulance services at or above the rates specified in [Act 42](#) as set forth above.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has included in the 2019 Physical Health HealthChoices Agreement, at Section VII.E.6, the requirement for PH-MCOs to pay, at a minimum, the fees required by the law, and this requirement applies to any Subcontractor of the PH-MCO. DHS has also included an appropriate amount in the 2019 Physical Health HealthChoices rates to reflect these payments.

**Next Steps:**

PH-MCOs should submit any questions regarding this Operations Memorandum to their assigned BMCO Contract Manager.

**Obsolete:**

N/A

**Attachment:**

N/A