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Administrative Bulletin 20-18

101 CMR 327.00: Rates of Payment for Ambulance and Wheelchair Van Services

Effective April 10, 2020

Updated Rate for Certain Ambulance Services During the

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Purpose, Scope, and Effective Period

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is issuing this administrative bulletin pursuant to the authority of COVID-19 Order No. 20: *Order Authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to Adjust Essential Provider Rates During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* and Executive Order 591: *Declaration of State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19*. In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to COVID-19, EOHHS is updating the rate for certain ambulance services established in 101 CMR 327.00: *Rates of Payment for Ambulance and Wheelchair Van Services*, as further described in this administrative bulletin.

This administrative bulletin is effective for dates of service on or after April 10, 2020, and shall expire the earlier of December 31, 2020, or the repeal of COVID-19 Order No. 20.

Disclaimer: This administrative bulletin is not authorization for a provider's use of the updated rate or service. Authorization for the provision of, and billing and payment for, bundled COVID-19 testing is governed by an executed special conditions amendment to a transportation provider's MassHealth Provider Contract.

Background

Individuals residing in congregate group sites such as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living residences, senior housing with shared services, and group sites maintained by agencies within EOHHS and their contractors may have difficulty traveling to testing sites to obtain COVID-19 diagnostic testing, and residents may be especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Because of the nature of congregate living where services are shared among residents, there are also heightened risks of the rapid spread of COVID-19 among individuals at group sites or other similar sites. During the public health emergency, it is critical that residents and staff at these sites have access to prompt



testing for COVID-19. Accordingly, EOHHS is updating the rates for certain services, as described below, to pay transportation providers a bundled payment rate for traveling to an authorized site, obtaining a specimen from an authorized individual, securing testing of the specimen for COVID-19 at a certified clinical lab, and communicating the test results to the appropriate parties.

Updated Rate for Certain Ambulance Services

For dates of service beginning April 10, 2020, the rate for the following services is updated in accordance with the following fee schedule:

Code	Description	Rate
A0999	Unlisted ambulance service. (Used for site-specific, completed bundle of the following medically necessary services: 1) traveling to an authorized site to obtain and transport specimen from authorized individual for COVID-19 diagnostic testing; 2) securing clinical laboratory diagnostic testing of specimen for COVID-19; and 3) communicating results of diagnostic testing for COVID-19.)*	\$305.00

* Notwithstanding the rate and billing rules for code A0999 established above, Providers may continue to bill the MassHealth program for code A0999 for the transportation of MassHealth members who require special resources to be safely transported, including but not limited to bariatric patients. Authorization for the provision of, and billing and payment for transporting patients who require special resources to be safely transported, including but not limited to bariatric patients, is pursuant to the MassHealth transportation services regulations at 130 CMR 407.000: *Transportation Services*, and other applicable MassHealth provider regulations.

Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the payment rate established via this administrative bulletin through April 30, 2020. Individuals may submit written comments by emailing: ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit written comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of this administrative bulletin in the subject line. All submissions of comments must include the sender’s full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email may mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02171.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of this administrative bulletin taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.