



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

Tel: (617) 573-1600
Fax: (617) 573-1891
www.mass.gov/eohhs

Administrative Bulletin 20-29

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

Eff. April 16, 2020

Rate Update Applicable to 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, which administers the Massachusetts Medicaid program known as “MassHealth,” is establishing increased rates and updated methodologies for certain MassHealth-covered ambulance services established in 101 CMR 327.00: *Rates of Payment for Ambulance and Wheelchair Van Services*, and as further described in this administrative bulletin. If a rate or payment methodology is not being updated pursuant to this administrative bulletin, the rate or payment methodology remains as established.

This administrative bulletin is effective for dates of service from April 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020.

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, ambulance services are pursuant to the MassHealth transportation services regulations at 130 CMR 407.000: *Transportation Services*, and other applicable MassHealth provider regulations.

Background

Ambulance services deliver critical, life-saving services by providing for the treatment and transportation of sick, injured, or disabled persons. Ambulances are necessary to provide emergency transportation or non-emergency transportation to individuals with certain conditions. As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, EOHHS recognizes that ambulance utilization is likely to rapidly increase. In addition, EOHHS has added a new code to allow emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to obtain and transport specimens for purposes of COVID-19 testing. Ambulance providers may need to hire additional workers and pay overtime to existing workers to meet the increased demand relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency.



As utilization of ambulance services is highly likely to increase, EOHHS seeks to promote continued delivery of these critical services and maximize supply through increased rates to providers of ambulance services. Accordingly, EOHHS is establishing updated rates and methodologies as described below.

Updated Rates for Certain Ambulance Services

To support transportation providers during the COVID-19 emergency, for dates of service from April 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020, EOHHS will increase the rates of certain ambulance services by 50% above current rates. The rates for the following ambulance services are updated in accordance with the following fee schedule.

Code	Description	Rate Established Under 101 CMR 327.00	New Rate for Dates of Service from April 1, 2020, through July 1, 2020
A0425	Ground mileage (per statute mile) (Loaded Mileage)	\$3.51	\$5.27
A0426	Ambulance service, Advanced Life Support, non-emergency, level 1 (ALS 1)	\$189.45	\$284.18
A0427	Ambulance service, Advanced Life Support, emergency, level 1 (ALS 1 - Emergency)	\$299.97	\$449.96
A0428	Ambulance service, Basic Life Support, non-emergency (BLS)	\$157.88	\$236.82
A0429	Ambulance service, Basic Life Support, emergency (BLS-Emergency)	\$252.61	\$378.92
A0430	Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (fixed wing)	\$4,036.04	\$6,054.06
A0431	Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (rotary wing)	\$4,036.04	\$6,054.06
A0433	Advanced Life Support, Level 2 (ALS 2)	\$434.17	\$651.26
A0434	Ambulance service Specialty Care Transport (SCT)	\$513.11	\$769.67
A0998	Ambulance response and treatment, no transport (Used for medically necessary visits to patients to obtain and transport specimens for COVID-19 diagnostic testing)	I.C.	\$157.88

Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the rate methodology 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, 6th Floor, 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.