



Date: July 30, 2021

To: OHP-enrolled ambulance providers, Fee-for-Service brokerages and Coordinated care organizations (CCOs)

From: Dana Hittle, Interim State Medicaid Director

Subject: Reminder: Ambulance transport and reimbursement policies during the COVID-19 emergency

On behalf of all Oregonians, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) appreciates everything our first responders and EMS communities are doing every day and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of recent extreme heat events, OHA is sharing the following reminders about flexibilities for non-emergency ambulance transports and increasing reimbursement rates for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency for first responders providing “Treat in Place” services.

Treat in Place Rate Increase

During this time, OHA will increase our reimbursement rates for ambulances that provide “Treat in Place” services for Oregon Health Plan members not enrolled in a CCO. In recognition that “Treat in Place” calls can use the same amount of resources to transport crew, equipment, medications, Personal Protective Equipment, and other expenses, OHA has increased the rate for procedure code A0998 (Aid Call) to the ALS1 Base Rate of A0427 \$420.62 for the remainder of the COVID-19 emergency.

Ambulance Transports for COVID-19 Positive or Presumptive Positive OHP Members

Ambulances may be used as non-emergent transportation for patients with a positive or presumptive positive COVID-19 diagnosis who need to access primary care, urgent care, or other non-hospital level of care. These trips can follow the same protocols as a hospital run (e.g., advance notice of arrival).

What should you do?

Providers can bill for ambulance services as outlined in the [Medical Transportation Services Provider Guide](#). As a reminder, for persons enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, providers should bill Medicare first and report Medicaid as secondary. Medicare will process your claim and forward it to OHA for coordination of benefits.

Services for Members Enrolled in Coordinated Care Organizations

For the duration of this emergency, OHA is directing CCOs to increase their reimbursement for procedure code A0998 to the ALS 1 Base Rate of A0427. OHA is not directing CCOs to align their reimbursement rates with Fee-For-Service rates, only to increase from the Aid Call rate to the ALS 1 Base Rate.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, contact Mary Durrant at mary.durrant@dhsaha.state.or.us or 503-947-2634.

Thank you for your commitment to serving Oregon communities and the important roles you play in supporting Oregon’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.