

Title: Ambulance Ground Mileage

Policy #: RB.001.B

Type: Claim Payment

Sub-Type: Reimbursement (RB)

Original Implementation Date: 10/1/2015

Version [B] Effective Date: 11/1/2018

Last Reviewed: 10/16/2018

Notification Published: N/A

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PRODUCT VARIATIONS

This policy applies to all HealthPartners Plans (HPP) product lines unless noted below.

Medicare Variation* Medicaid Variation**

NOTE: This policy only applies when a specific HPP medical necessity policy addressing the item/service does not exist. For Medicare products, Medicare guidance documents (Internet-only manuals, National and Local Coverage Determinations) supersede this policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

Emergent and non-emergent ambulance services are covered according to the individual’s eligibility and HPP benefit plan.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND CHIP PLANS

- Ambulance providers must report all loaded mileage.
- Claims submitted for ambulance transport without a loaded mileage charge will be denied.
- Claims submitted for ambulance ground mileage without a transport charge will be denied.
- Ambulance ground mileage charges will be denied when the ambulance transport is denied.
- Charges for ambulance ground mileage must be based on loaded mileage only, e.g. from the pickup of a member to his/her arrival at destination.
- Separate charges for unloaded mileage will be denied.

MEDICARE PLAN ONLY*

- The ambulance mileage rate per mile applies for all ground ambulance loaded mileage.

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MEDICAID AND CHIP PLANS ONLY**

- The ambulance mileage rate is a separate payment amount for ground ambulance mileage beyond the first 20 loaded miles of round trip.

RELATED POLICIES

N/A

POLICY GUIDELINES

Reimbursement for ambulance services is based on a base rate for transportation, which includes both the transport of the member to the nearest appropriate facility and all items and services associated with the transport. There is a separate reimbursement for loaded mileage.

The company has established the following billing guidelines for appropriate claims reporting.

The claim for each ambulance trip requires two lines.

- One claim line for reporting the transport service.
- A second claim line for reporting the loaded mileage.

SERVICE UNITS

When billing HCPCS codes A0426, A0427, A0428, A0429, A0433, or A0434, the service units field on the claim should always be reported "1".

When billing HCPCS codes A0425, the number of loaded mileage is required in the service unit field on the claim.

- For trips totaling less than 1 mile, enter a "0" before the decimal (e.g., 0.9).
- For trips totaling up to 100 loaded miles, report mileage rounded up to the nearest tenth of a mile. The decimal must be used in the appropriate place (e.g., 99.9).
- For trips totaling 100 covered miles and greater, report mileage rounded up to the whole number mile without use of a decimal (e.g., 998.5 miles should be reported as 999).

In all cases, the appropriate documentation must be kept on file and, upon request, presented to Health Partners Plans.

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CODING

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) codes that *may* be listed in this policy are for reference purposes only. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service is covered and is not a guarantee of payment. Other policies and coverage guidelines may apply. When reporting services, providers/facilities should code to the highest level of specificity using the code that was in effect on the date the service was rendered. This list may not be all inclusive.

The following HCPCS Level II codes may be used to represent ambulance services that are eligible for reimbursement consideration.

HCPCS Code	Description
A0425	Ground mileage, per statute mile
A0426	Ambulance service, advanced life support, non-emergency transport, level 1 (ALS1)
A0427	Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 1 (ALS1-emergency)
A0428	Ambulance service, basic life support, non-emergency transport (BLS)
A0429	Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS-emergency)
A0433	Advanced life support, level 2 (ALS2)
A0434	Specialty care transport (SCT)
A0425	Ground mileage, per statute mile

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BENEFIT APPLICATION

N/A

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Loaded mileage is defined as ambulance transport miles from the pickup of a member to his/her arrival at destination. It does not include transport miles before the member pickup or after the member's arrival at the destination.

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CLINICAL EVIDENCE

N/A

DEFINITIONS

N/A

DISCLAIMER

N/A

POLICY HISTORY

This section provides a high-level summary of changes to the policy since the previous version.

Summary	Version	Effective Date
Addition of language/definitions in the Policy Statement section, for improved clarity.	B	11/1/2018
N/A. This is a new policy.	A	10/1/2015

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c15.pdf>
2. http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/bulletin_admin/c_157444.pdf