



ISSUE DATE December 30, 2014	EFFECTIVE DATE December 28, 2014	NUMBER 26-14-01
SUBJECT Non-Payment of Unloaded Ground or Air Ambulance Mileage		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that effective with dates of services on and after December 28, 2014, the Department of Human Services (Department) will no longer pay ambulance providers for unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage. The Department is also issuing an updated Ambulance Services Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all Medical Assistance (MA) enrolled ambulance providers who provide nonemergency ground or air ambulance transport services to all MA beneficiaries in the MA Program’s fee-for-service delivery system. Ambulance providers who participate in the MA Program’s managed care delivery system should address payment related questions regarding unloaded ground or air mileage fees directly to the applicable managed care organization.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

As a result of a State Plan Amendment submission and discussions with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), CMS advised the Department that Federal Financial Participation (FFP) is not allowed for unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage since CMS considers this part of the ambulance provider’s cost of doing business.

Effective with dates of service on or after December 28, 2014, the Department will no longer pay ambulance providers for unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage. The Department will continue to pay for loaded ground or air ambulance mileage at the rate listed on the MA Program Fee Schedule.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
<http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

On December 27, 2014, the Department issued public notice that it will no longer pay for unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at 44 Pa.B 8063.

PROCEDURE:

Effective with dates of service on or after December, 28, 2014, the Department will no longer pay for unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage.

Ambulance providers are not to bill the Department for ground or air ambulance unloaded mileage.

Ambulance providers rendering ambulance transportation services to MA beneficiaries are directed to refer to the Ambulance Services Program Fee Schedule when submitting claims for ambulance services. Ambulance providers are reminded to use the appropriate place of service code, corresponding informational modifiers to identify the place where the beneficiary is transported from and the final destination and pricing modifiers in accordance with the updated Ambulance Services Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule attached to this bulletin. Failure to bill the national procedure code, the place of service and the pricing and information modifiers, as appropriate, will result in claim denial.

This MA Bulletin obsoletes MA Bulletin 26-07-01, titled "Clarification of Procedure Codes and Modifiers to be Used When Billing for Ambulance Services", issued and effective February 20, 2007.

ATTACHMENT:

Ambulance Services Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule