



ISSUE DATE March 23, 2015	EFFECTIVE DATE December 28, 2014	NUMBER 26-15-01
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 service 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 and issue an updated Ambulance Services Medical Assistance (MA) Program Fee Schedule. This bulletin replaces MA Bulletin 26-14-01. The Department is rescinding MA Bulletin 26-14-01 due to an omission in the Scope section of the bulletin.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to MA enrolled ambulance providers who provide emergency and nonemergency ground or air ambulance transport services to 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 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 pay for loaded ground or air ambulance mileage at the rate of

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>

\$2.00 per mile beyond the first 20 loaded miles of a round trip as listed on the Ambulance Services MA Program Fee Schedule.

On December 27, 2014, the Department published a public notice that it will no longer pay for unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at 44 Pa.B. 8063. Providers may view this bulletin at the following website link: <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol44/44-52/2696.html>.

On December 30, 2014, the Department issued MA Bulletin 26-14-01, titled "Nonpayment of Ground or Air Ambulance Mileage", which was effective December 28, 2014. The Department inadvertently omitted informing providers in the Scope section of the bulletin that the payment policy applies to both emergency and nonemergency ground and air ambulance transport services.

This bulletin corrects these errors.

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 unloaded ground or air ambulance mileage.

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

OBSOLETE BULLETIN:

This MA Bulletin obsoletes MA Bulletin 26-14-01, titled "Non-Payment of Unloaded Ground or Air Ambulance Mileage", issued December 30, 2014, and effective December 28, 2014, and its attached Ambulance Services MA Program Fee Schedule.

ATTACHMENT:

Ambulance Services Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule