

FLORIDA MEDICAID



JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR

ALAN LEVINE, SECRETARY

July 5, 2005

Dear Ambulance Transportation Provider:

Effective July 1, 2005, in-state, non-emergency ambulance transportation will no longer require prior authorization if the recipient's medical condition is listed on the Medicare Ambulance Medical Condition List in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 15, Attachment 1. The manual is available on Medicare's website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>. Click on Professionals, Ambulance Services, CMS Manual System, Publication 100-4, Ambulance.

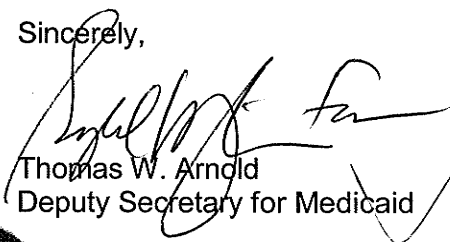
The medical condition code list contains medical condition codes for both emergency and non-emergency conditions, and indicates whether a condition requires advanced life support (ALS) or basic life support (BLS). The condition codes are cross-walked to ICD-9-CM codes. The condition code is based on the recipient's condition at the time of transport as reported by the dispatch center and observed by the ambulance crew.

Use of the condition codes will not guarantee payment of the claim or payment for a certain level of service. Ambulance providers and suppliers must retain adequate documentation of dispatch instructions, patient's condition, other on-scene information, and details of the transport (e.g., medications administered, changes in the patient's condition, and miles traveled), all of which may be subject to medical review by Medicaid or Medicaid's authorized representative. Medicaid will rely on medical record documentation to justify coverage, in addition to the condition codes. Medicaid area offices and Medicaid Program Integrity staff will periodically monitor records to ensure compliance.

If the recipient's medical condition is not included on the Medicare list, but appears to the provider to be medically necessary, the provider must obtain prior authorization from the area Medicaid office to be reimbursed for the trip. Non-emergency ambulance transportation must also be prior authorized if the provider requests a negotiated rate or the ambulance transportation is to a destination outside Florida. An exception is for transportation to a facility or a provider in states bordering Florida (Georgia or Alabama) if recipients routinely use that border facility for medical treatment. If the Medicaid area office is unavailable and the transport is urgent, the service may be post authorized.

If you have any questions, please call your area Medicaid office. We appreciate the services that you provide to Florida's Medicaid recipients.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Arnold
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

