

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

Ambulance Reimbursement (SPA 15-038)

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Changes to the Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after August 1, 2015, SPA 15-038 proposes to begin reimbursing for Medicaid ambulance services using a relative value unit (RVU) system similar to the methodology used in Medicare. This change is being made in accordance with the budget implementer legislation in section 389 of Public Act 15-5 of the June 2015 special legislative session. This change is designed to align Medicaid ambulance reimbursement more closely with Medicare's reimbursement methodology.

Fiscal Information

Based on information that is available at this time, it is estimated that this SPA will reduce annual aggregate expenditures by amounts to be determined in Federal Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.

Information on Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

In accordance with federal Medicaid requirements, upon request, DSS will provide copies of the proposed SPA. Copies of the proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS regional office and on the DSS web site: <http://www.ct.gov/dss>. Go to "Publications" and then "Updates."

Written, telephone, and email requests should be sent to: Ginny Mahoney, Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105, Telephone: (860) 424-5145, Email: ginny.mahoney@ct.gov. Please reference "SPA 15-038 Ambulance Reimbursement". Written comments may be submitted in the same manner as requests no later than August 12, 2015.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE/TERRITORY: CONNECTICUT

24. Methods and Standards for Establishing Rates – Other types of Care**A. Transportation**

- (1) Ambulance - All rates are published at www.ctdssmap.com. From this web page, go to “Provider,” then to “Provider Fee Schedule Download” and select the “Transportation” subcategory listed below. Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed fee schedule rates for these services are the same for both governmental and private providers.
- (a) Fees for emergency medical transportation were set as of August 1, 2015 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. Select the “Transportation – Basic/Advanced” fee schedule.
- (b) Fees for non-emergency ambulance services were set as of August 1, 2015 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. Select the “Transportation – Basic/Advanced” fee schedule.
- (c) Fees for emergency conventional air ambulance services (rotary wing) were set as of December 1, 2012 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. Select the “Transportation – Critical Helicopter” fee schedule. Fees for emergency conventional air ambulance services (fixed wing) are manually priced. Select the “Transportation – Air Ambulance” fee schedule.
- (2) Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

NEMT rates for livery and wheelchair service were set as of February 1, 2013 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. All rates are published at www.ctdssmap.com. From this web page, go to “Provider,” then to “Provider Fee Schedule Download” and select the “Transport – Non-Emergency Medical” fee schedule. Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed free schedule rates for these services are the same for both governmental and private providers.

The Department will establish the rates paid to NEMT providers for non-emergency ambulance, wheelchair van livery services and personal reimbursements and other modes as determined by the Department. The provider fees are posted for two modes of transportation: general livery/taxi and wheelchair accessible vehicles. Providers are paid a base rate plus a per mile rate for all trips. If more than one rider is transported, the base rate for the second rider is reduced. The payment methodology for NEMT is described in Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B.