

STATE OF LOUISIANA

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METHODS OF PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION:

CITATIONS

42 CFR 431.53  
42 CFR 440.170  
1902(a)(87) of the Social Security Act

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

- I. The Bureau of Health Services Financing (BHSF) assures the provision of necessary non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to and/or from a Medicaid covered service, including carved-out services, when no other means of transportation is available. ~~and from providers where it is needed to secure a Title XIX covered medical service.~~ Louisiana's transportation broker arranges all NEMT for Medicaid beneficiaries. When Title XIX authorizes funds to provide NEMT services to the beneficiary, an assignment of the least costly transportation provider suitable to meet the beneficiary's medical needs is arranged, except when such services can be provided by the Local Transit Authority. If there is no difference in cost among providers, the beneficiary may be given freedom to choose among medical transportation providers in the service region. If the beneficiary does not make a choice or their chosen medical transportation provider is unavailable, the beneficiary will be assigned to an available NEMT provider.

Title XIX requires the beneficiary's initial transportation offer to be through the Local Transit Authority when it is available.

~~In instances when the Local Transit Authority can provide transportation the beneficiary does not have a choice. Bureau of Health Services Financing will attempt to provide non-emergency medical transportation even if two days advance notice is not given.~~

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Vendor payment shall be made for non-emergency transportation subject to the following conditions:

- A. The eligible Title XIX beneficiary seeks transportation to and/or from a medical provider of his/her choice, who is generally available and used by other members of the community for a Title XIX covered medical service.
- B. ~~All other avenues of providing transportation appropriate to meet the needs of the beneficiary have been explored and found to be unavailable; i.e. family, friends, community resources, the provision of transportation by the Bureau of Health Services Financing Parish Medicaid Office or other State of Federally funded transportation resources. The BHSF provides coverage for NEMT services to eligible beneficiaries that do not have any other means of transportation available. Other avenues for possible transportation that are appropriate and meet the needs of the beneficiary, such as gas reimbursement for friends and family, as well as community resources, must also be unavailable in order for vendor payment to be made.~~
- C. The provider of transportation is enrolled in the Title XIX Program.
- D. That transportation is arranged to and/or from a provider of medical services located geographically within the trade area in which the beneficiary resides who requests transportation.
- E. There are no arbitrary limitations as to the number of non-emergency medical transportation services ~~for which payment will be made~~ eligible for reimbursement.

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- II. The ~~Bureau of Health Services Financing~~BHSF Parish Medicaid Office may elect to utilize any of the following methods of transportation in assuring for the provision of non-emergency medical transportation.
- A. Public transportation providers. ~~such as taxi companies and public transit systems.~~
  - B. ~~Non-profit providers of transportation such as church or volunteer groups.~~Gas reimbursement providers.
  - C. ~~Providers of transportation who are partially or totally funded by State, Federal or Local funds such as service agencies.~~Non-profit providers of transportation.
  - D. ~~State-owned vehicles driven by Department of Health and Hospitals staff, such as cars, vans, mini-buses or trucks.~~For-profit providers of transportation.
  - E. Ambulances used for non-emergency ambulance transportation (NEAT).
  - F. ~~For Profit providers of transportation.~~

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METHODS OF PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION:

Emergency Medical Transportation

~~The Bureau of Health Services Financing~~ The BHSF assures the provision of emergency medical transportation where it is provided for a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in any of the following:

- A. Placing the health of the ~~enrollee~~ beneficiary (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
- B. Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- C. Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

A beneficiary may also require emergency ambulance transportation if he or she is psychiatrically unmanageable or needs restraint. Ambulance providers utilize ambulances to provide emergency medical transportation. ~~needed to secure emergency medical services when provided for unforeseen circumstances which apparently demand immediate attention at a hospital to prevent serious impairment or loss of life. In instances when Title XIX funds are authorized to provide transportation, the beneficiary shall be given freedom to choose among emergency medical transportation providers in the service area who are enrolled in the Title XIX Program. Ambulance providers utilize ambulances to provide E~~emergency medical transportation; ~~is provided by ambulance.~~

~~The Bureau of Health Services Financing~~ The BHSF attests that all the minimum requirements outlined in 1902(a)(87) of the Social Security Act are met.