
CHAPTER 10: MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

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COVERED SERVICES

The transportation broker shall authorize NEMT for the least costly means of transportation available to ~~the nearest available~~ qualified provider of routine or specialty care.

Beneficiaries may seek medically necessary services in another state when it is the nearest option available.

Scheduled trips in which no transportation of the beneficiary occurs ~~is~~are not billable.

Payment to transportation providers shall be no less than the published Medicaid FFS rate in effect on the date of service, unless mutually agreed to by the transportation broker and the transportation provider in the provider agreement.

Exclusions

The transportation broker shall not reimburse transportation to or from the following locations:

- Pharmacies;
- Nursing facilities;
- Hospice care; or
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) service appointments at the Office of Public Health.

Note: This is not an exclusive list.

Commercial Air Transportation for Out-of-State Care

Transportation on commercial airlines may be approved for out-of-state trips when no comparable services can be provided in Louisiana, and the risk to the beneficiary's health is grave ~~if transported by other means~~. The transportation broker shall contact LDH if it determines that air travel is required, as commercial air transportation requires prior authorization. All out-of-state medical care must be prior authorized by the LDH fiscal intermediary. Transportation may be included in the prior authorization for medical services. ~~The health and safety of the beneficiary must be confirmed by the treating physician, and the beneficiary's ability to tolerate this form of travel must be considered.~~ Approval shall be contingent on the treating physician's confirmation that there are no negative impacts to the health and safety of the enrollee by utilizing commercial air transportation.

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Air travel for the beneficiary plus a maximum of one attendant, if medically necessary or if the beneficiary is a child, shall be reimbursed for the lowest, refundable, coach/economy class fare. Upgrades (e.g., fare class or seat) and additional costs (e.g., in-flight refreshments) shall not be reimbursed.