



• ANSWERING SERVICES

•  MEDICAL ALARMS (PERS)

• TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

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To: All Westchester County Transportation Providers
From: Wayne Freeman
Subject: Medicaid Transportation – Westchester County Changes
Date: October 27, 2011

At the direction of NYSDOH, Medical Answering Services (MAS) will implement the following policy change for taxi and ambulette trips in Westchester County for all taxi and ambulette trips for all trips on or after November 1, 2011.

Effective **November 1, 2011**, the Department of Health has redefined the Westchester County fee schedules as follows:

- For all standard taxi trips, irrespective of the locality, Medicaid will pay \$7.20 pickup plus mileage from points A to B. The applicable procedure codes will be A0100 at \$7.20 and S0215 at \$2.30, which will be issued by MAS. This fee change **does not** impact trips to dialysis or those trips deemed by MAS to be taxi with assist, however Medicaid will pay mileage as applicable for these trips.
- For all ambulette trips, Medicaid will pay mileage from points A to B. The base codes applicable codes are Wheelchair A0130, Stretcher T2005, Stretcher off hours T2005 TV and Mileage S0209.

Additionally, please understand that turning back accepted trips with short notice is unacceptable. MAS will continue to track and report this information to DOH, who may instruct MAS to remove as an available vendor those vendors found to have consistently engaged in this practice.

Questions may be directed to Heidi Seney of the Medicaid Transportation Policy Unit at (518) 473-2160 or via email to MedTrans@health.state.ny.us.

Question: Which taxi trips and taxi codes are **not** affected by this change?

Answer: Taxi Dialysis Base A0100AX will still be used for dialysis trips. Taxi Door thru Door A0100TK will be used for taxi trips where the enrollee needs assistance door through door, Child Transports will use A0100 HA. The current in-city and out of city billing will apply to these trips.

Question: What Ambulette Codes are **not** affected by this change?

Answer: Child Services transportation using A0130 TV will remain the same. Adult Day Health Care Transportation using A0100 HC will remain the same.

Question: Why is NYSDOH making these changes?

Answer: Based on information provided by MAS and transportation providers, NYSDOH is working to implement consistent billing practices used in other NYS counties into Westchester County.

Question: What will taxi and ambulette trips look like going forward?

Answer: Trips will be base rate and mileage unless otherwise noted. Standard taxi trips will be billed using A0100 Taxi Base and S0215 Taxi mileage. Ambulette trips will be billed using the appropriate base code for the level of service with S0209 mileage. There will be fewer conflicts between billing codes being used on trips. This will simplify the billing process for transportation provider.