

## Questions and Answers from Open Door Forum: Ambulance, February 25, 2021

1. We have been working with the MACs individually and with the team in Baltimore, because we understand that while the FAQs are saying there are no changes to current medical necessity policy, and we understand that to mean that transport where a patient is covered because of isolation due to a contagious disease, that that is sufficient to meet medical necessity in and of itself, so long as you have appropriate documentation. But - and there are some MACs as you know, that recognize this fact and have been clear on that. And our conversations with the folks in Baltimore, also suggests that to be true. However we are encountering other MACs that are indicating that a claim when the basis for medical necessity is isolation because of a contagious disease, is not sufficient to justify the claim under medical necessity. And so what I'm wondering with the FAQs you just referenced, if CMS can clarify them so that it clearly states that transports are covered if a patient has a communicable disease and must be isolated from the public, or whose medical condition must be protected from public exposure. I think that clarity would be helpful during the pandemic. So I'm happy to provide any other background, but hopefully that's something that we can resolve sooner rather than later.
  - a. The recommendation is being reviewed by CMS.
2. I had been speaking to Palmetto who is our provider for CMS payments, and we have been - they have not been able to furnish us with a 2021 updated Medicare allowable fee. Do you know where I might be able to locate one for the State of Alabama?
  - a. The 2021 Ambulance Fee Schedule Public Use File (PUF) can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AmbulanceFeeSchedule/afspuf> (scroll to the bottom of the site)
  - b. Within the 2021 PUF file, the rates are sorted by Contractor/Carrier number, Locality within Contractor/Carrier number, and then HCPCS code.
  - c. To find the correct Contractor/Carrier number for your State, refer to the "Zip Code to Carrier Locality File" (revised Feb 2021) here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/FeeScheduleGenInfo>
  - d. A search of this file indicates that the inquirer's Alabama location is in the 10112 Contractor/Carrier. A search of the PUF file for the rates associated with this 10112 Contractor/Carrier indicates the following:

HCPCS	RVU	GPCI	BASE RATE	URBAN BASE	RURAL BASE RATE / RURAL MILEAGE	RURAL BASE RATE / LOWEST QUARTILE	RURAL GROUND MILES 1-17*
				RATE / URBAN MILEAGE			
A0425	1.00	0.888	\$7.48	\$7.63	\$7.70	n/a	\$11.55
A0426	1.20	0.888	\$232.44	\$262.20	\$264.77	\$324.61	n/a
A0427	1.90	0.888	\$232.44	\$415.15	\$419.22	\$513.96	n/a

A0428	1.00	0.888	\$232.44	\$218.50	\$220.64	\$270.50	n/a
A0429	1.60	0.888	\$232.44	\$349.60	\$353.03	\$432.81	n/a
A0430	1.00	0.888	\$3,154.21	\$2,977.57	\$4,466.36	n/a	\$4,466.36
A0431	1.00	0.888	\$3,667.24	\$3,461.87	\$5,192.81	n/a	\$5,192.81
A0432	1.75	0.888	\$232.44	\$382.38	\$386.13	n/a	n/a
A0433	2.75	0.888	\$232.44	\$600.88	\$606.77	\$743.90	n/a
A0434	3.25	0.888	\$232.44	\$710.13	\$717.09	\$879.15	n/a
A0435	1.00	0.888	\$8.95	\$8.95	\$13.43	n/a	\$13.43
A0436	1.00	0.888	\$23.88	\$23.88	\$35.82	n/a	\$35.82

3. Everybody keeps asking questions on these forums and a lot of them are questions that several of us have. And so if you guys are asking us to email you and then you're responding to that person emailing, is there somewhere that we all can see these answers?
  - a. So after the Open Door Forum we receive a transcript and also I put together a Q&A document. So I get together with the speakers after the call to get the answers. And then we post the transcript, the audio and the Q&A document on our podcast and transcript Web page. And that's also - you can Google that, CMS podcast and transcripts and you have to scroll down. It's a pretty large page with all of our Open Door Forums and COVID-related calls. And it will be listed under Ambulance. So just give us a couple of weeks so we can get the answers and get it posted.