

## Staff Report

**Subject:** GA Medicaid Fee-for-Service Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit Supplemental Payment Program

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**Department:** Finance Department

**Meeting Date:** 1/3/23

**Item Description:** Consideration to accept participation in the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) to participate in the GA Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program.

### Summary Recommendation:

Staff is recommending participation in the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) to participate in the GA Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program.

### Executive Summary:

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Myers and Stauffer LC, sent a letter containing information regarding the GA Medicaid FFS Ground Ambulance UPL Supplemental Payment Program. DCH is implementing a Medicaid supplemental payment for in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing) ground ambulance providers. The purpose of the supplemental payment is to provide additional Medicaid reimbursement to ensure access to ambulance services for Medicaid enrollees. At this time, the supplemental payment will apply to the Medicaid FFS program only. The supplemental payment is in addition to the claim payment a provider receives when submitting FFS claims for ambulance services.

The supplemental payment will not exceed an established upper payment limit. DCH has determined the UPL will be based on commercial rate information through the calculation of an average commercial rate (ACR) for each applicable ambulance service. The supplemental payment will apply to the following ambulance services:

- A0425 - Mileage
- A0426 - Advanced Life Support (ALS, Non-Emergency)
- A0427 - Advanced Life Support (ALS, Level 1, Emergency)
- A0428 - Basic Life Support (BLS, Non-Emergency)
- A0429 - Basic Life Support (BLS, Emergency)
- A0433 - Advanced Life Support, Level 2 (ALS Level 2, Emergency)
- A0434 - Specialty Care Transport

The program was approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The program will be effective for Medicaid FFS ambulance services provided on

and after January 1, 2020. The supplemental payment will be issued twice a year in January and July.

Participation in the ambulance UPL program is voluntary. To participate, eligible in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing) ground ambulance providers must submit the required information. All documentation must be submitted through the Myers and Stauffer secure FTP site, on behalf of DCH.

As the SFY2023 UPL calculation has not been approved by CMS, the current calculation is an interim UPL payment.

**Background:**

1. Participation in the ambulance UPL program is voluntary.
2. There is no cost share requirement but the non-federal had to be transferred to the state of Georgia through the use of an IGT which is the transfer of public funds from a unit of government to the state Medicaid agency.
3. The IGT payment to DCH would be \$3,221.66
4. The total payment that Effingham would receive back from DCH is \$11,597.05, effectively meaning the County would receive the net of \$8,375.39 in funding.

**Alternatives for Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve to accept participation in the GA Medicaid FFS Ground Ambulance UPL Supplemental Payment Program.
2. Do not approve to accept participation in the GA Medicaid FFS Ground Ambulance UPL Supplemental Payment Program.
3. Provide staff with direction.

**Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve to accept participation in the GA Medicaid FFS Ground Ambulance UPL Supplemental Payment Program.

**Other Alternatives:**

N/A

**Department Review:** *(list departments)*

Effingham County Emergency Medical Services

**Funding Source:**

There is no cost share requirement but the non-federal share had to be transferred to the state of Georgia through the use of an IGT.

**Attachments:**

GA Medicaid FFS Ground Ambulance UPL Supplemental Payment Program payment information