

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: 4/19/22

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 requesting approval 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.

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. For 2021 supplemental payments, the first supplemental payment will be based on Medicaid FFS ambulance claim dates of service from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. The second supplemental payment will be based on Medicaid FFS ambulance claim dates of service from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Each calculation will be based on ACR data corresponding to the same time period as the Medicaid claims data. Please note that if a procedure code has no utilization due to denial or zero payment, it will not be included in the UPL calculation.

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.

For Effingham County EMS, the non-federal share was transferred to the state of Georgia through the use of an intergovernmental transfer (IGT). An IGT is the transfer of public funds from a unit of government (county, city, other municipality, or a state agency) to the state Medicaid agency. DCH made a Medicaid payment on February 21, 2022 that includes both the transferred funds (\$952.55) and the matching federal funds (\$2,581.97).

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. Payment amount is \$2,581.97.

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