June 7, 2021

RE: Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit Supplemental Payment Program – ACR Data Collection for Calendar Year 2020 Payment #2 (July – December 2020)

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Myers and Stauffer LC, a contractor for DCH, is providing this letter containing information regarding the Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program for the second payment of calendar year 2020 (July – December 2020). This program is available to in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing) ground ambulance providers. If your organization is not an in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing), ground ambulance provider, your organization is not eligible for participation in this program, and you may disregard this letter.

**Background**

As has been previously communicated, 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 has been approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is effective for Medicaid FFS ambulance services provided on and after January 1, 2020. The supplemental payment will be issued twice a year. 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. Refer to the Important Timing section of this letter for the tentative data collection and payment schedule. 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 and Documentation Requirements**
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 as listed below. As described in the “Important Timing” section below, the state intends to make biannual supplemental payments. This information must be submitted for each biannual supplemental payment.

- A completed ACR survey. DCH and Myers and Stauffer have developed a survey tool to collect commercial rate information from participating ambulance providers. The ACR survey is in Microsoft Excel format and is available on the DCH website at [https://dch.georgia.gov/](https://dch.georgia.gov/) by selecting “Providers”, then “Provider Types” or by submitting a request for the survey tool to the email address below. The form is titled “GA Ambulance ACR Survey”.
- A signed Schedule 1 of the ACR survey. Schedule 1 contains an attestation regarding the accuracy of the submitted commercial rate information.
- Documentation supporting the commercial payment rates reported in the survey. Further information is available in the survey instructions.
- A completed and signed Government Ownership Checklist form. DCH and Myers and Stauffer have developed a checklist to document the government ownership of participating ambulance providers. The checklist is in Microsoft Excel format and is available on the Department’s website at [https://dch.georgia.gov/](https://dch.georgia.gov/) by selecting “Providers”, then “Provider Types” or by submitting a request for the checklist to the email address below. The form is titled “Government Ownership Checklist”.

All documentation must be submitted through the Myers and Stauffer secure FTP site. Requests for FTP accounts should be sent to GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com.

**Program Funding**
For this program, the non-federal share will be transferred to the state of Georgia by the ambulance provider 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. The qualifying in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing) ground ambulance service will transfer the non-federal share to the State of Georgia. Subsequently, DCH will make a Medicaid payment to the ambulance service that includes both the transferred funds and the matching federal funds.
Important Timing
As follows are key tentative dates for the second payment of the ambulance UPL program:

- June 7, 2021: Distribution of second payment notification letter.
- June 25, 2021: The ACR survey is due to Myers and Stauffer LC.
- July - August 2021: Myers and Stauffer and DCH will review submitted survey information and calculate the ACR for each service.
- September 2021: Supplemental payments will be calculated based on ACR data and Medicaid FFS claims data. The second supplemental payment will cover ambulance services with dates of service from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
- Fall 2021: Payments communicated to providers with associated request for IGT funds.
- Fall 2021: IGT funds obtained from providers.
- Fall 2021: Payments issued to providers.

*Note: All dates are approximate and subject to change.*

If you have any questions about the program please contact Myers and Stauffer at GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com or by telephone at (800) 877-6927 or you may contact Kim Morris, Director of Reimbursement by telephone at (404) 657-0229 or via email at Kim.Morris@dch.ga.gov or Angelica Clark, Senior Manager by telephone at (404) 463-2956 or via email at AClark@dch.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Myers and Stauffer LC