



June 15, 2022

RE: Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit Supplemental Payment Program – ACR Data Collection for Calendar Year 2021

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Myers and Stauffer LC, a contractor for DCH, is providing this letter to invite you to participate in the Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program for calendar year 2021. 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**

Beginning with calendar year 2020, DCH instituted a Medicaid supplemental payment program for in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing) ground ambulance providers. Its purpose is to provide additional Medicaid reimbursement to help ensure access to ambulance services for Medicaid enrollees with FFS coverage. 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. 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 applies 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

### **Participation and Documentation Requirements**

Participation in the ambulance UPL program is voluntary. A survey is used to collect commercial rate information. Surveys are required for new program enrollees and will collect data applicable to calendar year 2021. Calendar year 2020 program participants do not need to submit a new survey. Please note that if a procedure code has no Medicaid utilization due to denial or zero payment, it will

not be included in the UPL calculation. To participate, eligible in-state, government-owned (hospital affiliated or free-standing) ground ambulance providers must submit the required information as listed below.

- 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/ground-ambulance-upl> 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/ground-ambulance-upl> 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](mailto:GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com).

### **Program Funding**

For this program, the non-federal share of funds 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 calendar year 2021 ambulance UPL program:

- June 24, 2022: The ACR survey is due to Myers and Stauffer LC.
- July - August 2022: Myers and Stauffer and DCH will review submitted survey information and calculate the ACR for each service.
- September 2022: Supplemental payments will be calculated based on ACR data and Medicaid FFS claims data. The supplemental payment will cover ambulance services with dates of service from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
- Fall 2022: Payments communicated to providers with associated request for IGT funds.
- Fall 2022: IGT funds obtained from providers.
- Fall 2022: 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](mailto: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](mailto:Kim.Morris@dch.ga.gov) or Angelica Clark, Senior Manager by telephone at (404) 463-2956 or via email at [AClark@dch.ga.gov](mailto:AClark@dch.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

Myers and Stauffer LC