



September 3, 2021

All Georgia Ambulance Providers

RE: Ground Ambulance Assessment and Payment Program

Dear Ambulance Provider,

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 Ground Ambulance Assessment and Payment Program. House Bill 271 of the 2021-2022 regular session of the Georgia Assembly authorized DCH to develop an assessment program for the purpose of funding the state share of Medicaid supplemental payments for ambulance providers. The legislation authorizes DCH to implement the assessment program on a subset of ambulance services, and DCH intends to implement the assessment program for privately-owned (private) ground ambulance providers. Participation in the assessment program by private ground ambulance providers is mandatory in accordance with House Bill 271.

This supplemental payment program and funding mechanism will provide a new Medicaid funding pool that will allow DCH to increase payments to Georgia's private ground ambulance providers for certain ground ambulance services offered to Medicaid beneficiaries. Supplemental payments will be targeted to services provided under the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) program. An assessment will be collected to fund the state share of payments that will then be directed to the private ambulance providers.

Once developed, the program for supplemental payments will be subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Likewise, the assessment to fund the matching payments for federal financial participation must meet Medicaid funding rules of CMS.

**In order for DCH to comply with all CMS requirements for approval, information will be needed from all ambulance providers, regardless of ownership status and Medicaid participation status.**

DCH requests that all ground ambulance providers complete the attached ownership checklist. Please submit the ownership checklist, via e-mail to [GeorgiaAmbulance@mssl.com](mailto:GeorgiaAmbulance@mssl.com) by **September 24, 2021**. If the provider previously submitted the ownership checklist for the related public ambulance program and there has been no change in ownership status, the checklist is not required.

A financial survey will be forthcoming in September to capture data that will be used to design the new program. The financial survey will request revenue and transport data from all providers and commercial payment data from private providers. The collected revenue and transport data will be used to design the assessment program. Commercial payment data will be used for the calculation of an average commercial rate (ACR) for each applicable ambulance service. Supplemental payments will then be based on the ACRs.

Training to assist providers in completion of the survey is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held via WebEx. Attendance instructions for the training are as follows:

Meeting link: <https://mslc.webex.com/mslc/j.php?MTID=m96ef080fe190d1d28696a69f4c87ccd2>

Meeting number: 161 473 6130

To join by phone: 1-844-740-1264; Access code: 161 473 6130

Updates on this program will be posted on the DCH website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Kim Morris, Director of Reimbursement, via email at [Kim.Morris@dch.ga.gov](mailto:Kim.Morris@dch.ga.gov) or Angelica Clark, Senior Manager, via email at [AClark@dch.ga.gov](mailto:AClark@dch.ga.gov). If you have any questions about the ownership checklist, please contact Myers and Stauffer LC at [GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com](mailto:GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com).

Sincerely,

Myers and Stauffer LC