



March 7, 2023

All Public Ambulance Providers

RE: Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit Supplemental Payment Program for Government-owned Providers – ACR Data Collection for Calendar Year 2022
Via E-mail:

Dear Provider,

On behalf of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Myers and Stauffer LC, a contractor for DCH, invites you to participate in the Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Ground Ambulance Upper Payment Limit (UPL) Supplemental Payment Program for calendar year 2022. This program is available to in-state, government-owned, hospital affiliated or free-standing, ground ambulance providers.

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 payer 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

Please note that if for any procedure code, a provider has no Medicaid utilization or paid claims, either due to denial or zero payment, the code will not be included in the UPL calculation.

Participation and Documentation Requirements

Participation in the governmental ambulance UPL program is voluntary. A survey is used to collect commercial rate information. Surveys are required from all participants for reporting data applicable to calendar year 2022. 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”.

Surveys are due to Myers and Stauffer by April 14, 2023. All documentation must be submitted through the Myers and Stauffer secure FTP site. Requests for FTP accounts should be sent to GeorgiaAmbulance@mslc.com. We encourage the redaction of protected health information (PHI) from documentation, though redaction is not required for submission.

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 IGT amount will be a percentage of the total payment, based on the Medicaid federal match rate. DCH will notify each qualifying provider of the required IGT amount and the due date. Following the transfer of funds to the State of Georgia, DCH will draw federal matching funds and make the full Medicaid supplemental payment to the ambulance service.

Important Timing

As follows are key tentative dates for the calendar year 2022 ambulance UPL program:

- April 14, 2023: The ACR survey is due to Myers and Stauffer LC.
- April – July 2023: Myers and Stauffer and DCH will review submitted survey information and calculate the ACR for each service.

- August 2023: 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, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- Fall 2023: Payment amounts will be communicated to providers with an associated request for IGT funds.
- Fall 2023: IGT funds will be due from providers.
- Fall 2023: Payments will be issued to providers.

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

If you have any questions about the program or if you believe you have received this letter in error, 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 via email at Kim.Morris@dch.ga.gov or Angelica Clark Hester, Senior Manager via email at AClark@dch.ga.gov.

Sincerely,



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Senior Manager
Myers and Stauffer LC