



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB4974

Introduced 2/18/2020, by Rep. Ryan Spain

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/5-4.2

from Ch. 23, par. 5-4.2

Amends the Medical Assistance Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. In provisions requiring facilities to complete a Physician Certification Statement prior to ordering non-emergency transportation service for a patient scheduled for discharge, provides that if a ground ambulance provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider is unable to obtain the required Physician Certification Statement within 10 calendar days following the date of the service, the ground ambulance provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider must document its attempt to obtain the requested certification and may then submit the claim for payment. Provides that acceptable documentation includes a signed return receipt from the U.S. Postal Service, facsimile receipt, email receipt, or other similar service that evidences that the ground ambulance provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider attempted to obtain the required Physician Certification Statement.

LRB101 19184 KTG 68647 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 changing Section 5-4.2 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/5-4.2) (from Ch. 23, par. 5-4.2)

7 Sec. 5-4.2. Ambulance services payments.

8 (a) For ambulance services provided to a recipient of aid
9 under this Article on or after January 1, 1993, the Illinois
10 Department shall reimburse ambulance service providers at
11 rates calculated in accordance with this Section. It is the
12 intent of the General Assembly to provide adequate
13 reimbursement for ambulance services so as to ensure adequate
14 access to services for recipients of aid under this Article and
15 to provide appropriate incentives to ambulance service
16 providers to provide services in an efficient and
17 cost-effective manner. Thus, it is the intent of the General
18 Assembly that the Illinois Department implement a
19 reimbursement system for ambulance services that, to the extent
20 practicable and subject to the availability of funds
21 appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose, is
22 consistent with the payment principles of Medicare. To ensure
23 uniformity between the payment principles of Medicare and

1 Medicaid, the Illinois Department shall follow, to the extent
2 necessary and practicable and subject to the availability of
3 funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose,
4 the statutes, laws, regulations, policies, procedures,
5 principles, definitions, guidelines, and manuals used to
6 determine the amounts paid to ambulance service providers under
7 Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare).

8 (b) For ambulance services provided to a recipient of aid
9 under this Article on or after January 1, 1996, the Illinois
10 Department shall reimburse ambulance service providers based
11 upon the actual distance traveled if a natural disaster,
12 weather conditions, road repairs, or traffic congestion
13 necessitates the use of a route other than the most direct
14 route.

15 (c) For purposes of this Section, "ambulance services"
16 includes medical transportation services provided by means of
17 an ambulance, medi-car, service car, or taxi.

18 (c-1) For purposes of this Section, "ground ambulance
19 service" means medical transportation services that are
20 described as ground ambulance services by the Centers for
21 Medicare and Medicaid Services and provided in a vehicle that
22 is licensed as an ambulance by the Illinois Department of
23 Public Health pursuant to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
24 Systems Act.

25 (c-2) For purposes of this Section, "ground ambulance
26 service provider" means a vehicle service provider as described

1 in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act that
2 operates licensed ambulances for the purpose of providing
3 emergency ambulance services, or non-emergency ambulance
4 services, or both. For purposes of this Section, this includes
5 both ambulance providers and ambulance suppliers as described
6 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

7 (c-3) For purposes of this Section, "medi-car" means
8 transportation services provided to a patient who is confined
9 to a wheelchair and requires the use of a hydraulic or electric
10 lift or ramp and wheelchair lockdown when the patient's
11 condition does not require medical observation, medical
12 supervision, medical equipment, the administration of
13 medications, or the administration of oxygen.

14 (c-4) For purposes of this Section, "service car" means
15 transportation services provided to a patient by a passenger
16 vehicle where that patient does not require the specialized
17 modes described in subsection (c-1) or (c-3).

18 (d) This Section does not prohibit separate billing by
19 ambulance service providers for oxygen furnished while
20 providing advanced life support services.

21 (e) Beginning with services rendered on or after July 1,
22 2008, all providers of non-emergency medi-car and service car
23 transportation must certify that the driver and employee
24 attendant, as applicable, have completed a safety program
25 approved by the Department to protect both the patient and the
26 driver, prior to transporting a patient. The provider must

1 maintain this certification in its records. The provider shall
2 produce such documentation upon demand by the Department or its
3 representative. Failure to produce documentation of such
4 training shall result in recovery of any payments made by the
5 Department for services rendered by a non-certified driver or
6 employee attendant. Medi-car and service car providers must
7 maintain legible documentation in their records of the driver
8 and, as applicable, employee attendant that actually
9 transported the patient. Providers must recertify all drivers
10 and employee attendants every 3 years.

11 Notwithstanding the requirements above, any public
12 transportation provider of medi-car and service car
13 transportation that receives federal funding under 49 U.S.C.
14 5307 and 5311 need not certify its drivers and employee
15 attendants under this Section, since safety training is already
16 federally mandated.

17 (f) With respect to any policy or program administered by
18 the Department or its agent regarding approval of non-emergency
19 medical transportation by ground ambulance service providers,
20 including, but not limited to, the Non-Emergency
21 Transportation Services Prior Approval Program (NETSPAP), the
22 Department shall establish by rule a process by which ground
23 ambulance service providers of non-emergency medical
24 transportation may appeal any decision by the Department or its
25 agent for which no denial was received prior to the time of
26 transport that either (i) denies a request for approval for

1 payment of non-emergency transportation by means of ground
2 ambulance service or (ii) grants a request for approval of
3 non-emergency transportation by means of ground ambulance
4 service at a level of service that entitles the ground
5 ambulance service provider to a lower level of compensation
6 from the Department than the ground ambulance service provider
7 would have received as compensation for the level of service
8 requested. The rule shall be filed by December 15, 2012 and
9 shall provide that, for any decision rendered by the Department
10 or its agent on or after the date the rule takes effect, the
11 ground ambulance service provider shall have 60 days from the
12 date the decision is received to file an appeal. The rule
13 established by the Department shall be, insofar as is
14 practical, consistent with the Illinois Administrative
15 Procedure Act. The Director's decision on an appeal under this
16 Section shall be a final administrative decision subject to
17 review under the Administrative Review Law.

18 (f-5) Beginning 90 days after July 20, 2012 (the effective
19 date of Public Act 97-842), (i) no denial of a request for
20 approval for payment of non-emergency transportation by means
21 of ground ambulance service, and (ii) no approval of
22 non-emergency transportation by means of ground ambulance
23 service at a level of service that entitles the ground
24 ambulance service provider to a lower level of compensation
25 from the Department than would have been received at the level
26 of service submitted by the ground ambulance service provider,

1 may be issued by the Department or its agent unless the
2 Department has submitted the criteria for determining the
3 appropriateness of the transport for first notice publication
4 in the Illinois Register pursuant to Section 5-40 of the
5 Illinois Administrative Procedure Act.

6 (g) Whenever a patient covered by a medical assistance
7 program under this Code or by another medical program
8 administered by the Department, including a patient covered
9 under the State's Medicaid managed care program, is being
10 transported from a facility and requires non-emergency
11 transportation including ground ambulance, medi-car, or
12 service car transportation, a Physician Certification
13 Statement as described in this Section shall be required for
14 each patient. Facilities shall develop procedures for a
15 licensed medical professional to provide a written and signed
16 Physician Certification Statement. The Physician Certification
17 Statement shall specify the level of transportation services
18 needed and complete a medical certification establishing the
19 criteria for approval of non-emergency ambulance
20 transportation, as published by the Department of Healthcare
21 and Family Services, that is met by the patient. This
22 certification shall be completed prior to ordering the
23 transportation service and prior to patient discharge. The
24 Physician Certification Statement is not required prior to
25 transport if a delay in transport can be expected to negatively
26 affect the patient outcome. If the ground ambulance provider,

1 medi-car provider, or service car provider is unable to obtain
2 the required Physician Certification Statement within 10
3 calendar days following the date of the service, the ground
4 ambulance provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider
5 must document its attempt to obtain the requested certification
6 and may then submit the claim for payment. Acceptable
7 documentation includes a signed return receipt from the U.S.
8 Postal Service, facsimile receipt, email receipt, or other
9 similar service that evidences that the ground ambulance
10 provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider attempted
11 to obtain the required Physician Certification Statement.

12 The medical certification specifying the level and type of
13 non-emergency transportation needed shall be in the form of the
14 Physician Certification Statement on a standardized form
15 prescribed by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.
16 Within 75 days after July 27, 2018 (the effective date of
17 Public Act 100-646), the Department of Healthcare and Family
18 Services shall develop a standardized form of the Physician
19 Certification Statement specifying the level and type of
20 transportation services needed in consultation with the
21 Department of Public Health, Medicaid managed care
22 organizations, a statewide association representing ambulance
23 providers, a statewide association representing hospitals, 3
24 statewide associations representing nursing homes, and other
25 stakeholders. The Physician Certification Statement shall
26 include, but is not limited to, the criteria necessary to

1 demonstrate medical necessity for the level of transport needed
2 as required by (i) the Department of Healthcare and Family
3 Services and (ii) the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
4 Services as outlined in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
5 Services' Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Pub. 100-02, Chap.
6 10, Sec. 10.2.1, et seq. The use of the Physician Certification
7 Statement shall satisfy the obligations of hospitals under
8 Section 6.22 of the Hospital Licensing Act and nursing homes
9 under Section 2-217 of the Nursing Home Care Act.
10 Implementation and acceptance of the Physician Certification
11 Statement shall take place no later than 90 days after the
12 issuance of the Physician Certification Statement by the
13 Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

14 Pursuant to subsection (E) of Section 12-4.25 of this Code,
15 the Department is entitled to recover overpayments paid to a
16 provider or vendor, including, but not limited to, from the
17 discharging physician, the discharging facility, and the
18 ground ambulance service provider, in instances where a
19 non-emergency ground ambulance service is rendered as the
20 result of improper or false certification.

21 Beginning October 1, 2018, the Department of Healthcare and
22 Family Services shall collect data from Medicaid managed care
23 organizations and transportation brokers, including the
24 Department's NETSPAP broker, regarding denials and appeals
25 related to the missing or incomplete Physician Certification
26 Statement forms and overall compliance with this subsection.

1 The Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall publish
2 quarterly results on its website within 15 days following the
3 end of each quarter.

4 (h) On and after July 1, 2012, the Department shall reduce
5 any rate of reimbursement for services or other payments or
6 alter any methodologies authorized by this Code to reduce any
7 rate of reimbursement for services or other payments in
8 accordance with Section 5-5e.

9 (i) On and after July 1, 2018, the Department shall
10 increase the base rate of reimbursement for both base charges
11 and mileage charges for ground ambulance service providers for
12 medical transportation services provided by means of a ground
13 ambulance to a level not lower than 112% of the base rate in
14 effect as of June 30, 2018.

15 (Source: P.A. 100-587, eff. 6-4-18; 100-646, eff. 7-27-18;
16 101-81, eff. 7-12-19.)