

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6706



Regional Operations Group

March 18, 2019

Jami Snyder, Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 East Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Dear Ms. Snyder:

We have reviewed the proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 18-011, which was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) San Francisco Regional Office on October 3, 2018. This SPA revises the rate methodology for ground ambulance services.

Based on the information provided, we are approving SPA 18-011 with an effective date of October 1, 2018 as requested. We are enclosing the approved Form CMS-179 and the following Medicaid state plan pages:


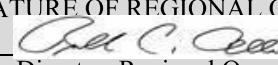
- Attachment 4.19-B, Pages 5h and 5i

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact Brian Zolynas at (415) 744-3601 or Brian.Zolynas@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Allen", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Richard C. Allen
Director
Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Regional Operations Group

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 18-011	2. STATE Arizona
FOR: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)	
TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 2018	
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (<i>Check One</i>):			
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW STATE PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT			
COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (<i>Separate Transmittal for each amendment</i>)			
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION: 42 CFR Part 447		7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: FFY 19: \$3,289,613 FFY 20: \$3,232,947	
8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT: Attachment 4.19-B Page 5h-5i		9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (<i>If Applicable</i>): Attachment 4.19-B Page 5h	
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: Updates the State Plan to make update to EMS rate methodologies			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (<i>Check One</i>):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL			
12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL: 		16. RETURN TO: Elizabeth Lorenz 801 E. Jefferson, MD#4200 Phoenix, Arizona 85034	
13. TYPED NAME: Elizabeth Lorenz			
14. TITLE: Assistant Director			
15. DATE SUBMITTED: 10/3/18			
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
17. DATE RECEIVED: October 3, 2018		18. DATE APPROVED: March 18, 2019	
PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED			
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL: October 1, 2018		20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL: 	
21. TYPED NAME: Richard C. Allen		22. TITLE: Director, Regional Operations Group Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services	
23. REMARKS: Change to Box 9: "Same" replaced with "Attachment 4.19-B Page 5h."			

State: ARIZONA
METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

The following is a description of methods and standards for determining the payment rates for ambulance transportation services included in the transportation bullet listed in Attachment 4.19-B, page 5b. Except as otherwise noted below, AHCCCS uses a uniform methodology in reimbursing both governmental and private providers for ambulance emergency and non-emergency transportation services.

1) Ground Ambulance Rates set by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

ADHS regulates ambulance companies in Arizona (except for those owned and operated by American Indian tribes and federal agencies) licensing and rate setting. ADHS sets rates based on data submitted by providers including direct and indirect costs, reimbursable and non reimbursable charges, utilization data, and public payer settlements. ADHS offers annual provider rate adjustments based upon the Arizona Ambulance Inflation factor (AIF). The AIF is comprised of the average annual change in the CPI-U for transportation (50%) and for medical care (50%). The transportation category is composed of such things as motor vehicles (new and used), motor fuel, parts and equipment, maintenance and repair and public transportation. The medical care category is composed of such things as medical care commodities, medical care services – professional, hospital and related services.

For dates of service prior to October 1, 2009, AHCCCS will reimburse ambulance companies at 80.0% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 76% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 72.2% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 7, 2011. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2012 and are posted at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2013 and are posted at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 74.74% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2014 and are posted at:

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2015 and are posted at:

www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2016 and are posted at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2017 and are posted at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.59% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 1, 2017 and are posted at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

2) Ground Ambulance Rates set by AHCCCS

- a) AHCCCS establishes ground ambulance rates for out-of-state companies, companies operated by American Indian tribes except those described in paragraph b or which have a CON and are reimbursed according to reimbursement methodology 1), and federal agencies such as the National Park Service that operates ambulances in Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Meade National Recreation Area. Rates were initially established in 1994 based on the average (mean) reimbursement rates paid by commercial insurance companies. Rates are posted on the AHCCCS website at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>
- b) Effective October 1, 2018, rates for ground ambulance services provided by an I.H.S. provider or a tribally owned or operated provider with a section 638 agreement that does not have a Certificate of Necessity (CON) issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), will be the higher of: (1) the weighted average of the provider-specific rates as set by ADHS that are in effect on July 1, 2018, for each provider that has been issued a CON weighted by utilization of each ground transportation service code derived from both paid claims and encounters for the 12 months ending September 30, 2017

TN No. 18-011

Supersedes

TN No. 17-011

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METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

; and (2) the weighted average of the provider-specific rates as set by ADHS that are in effect on July 1, 2018, for each provider that has been issued a CON weighted by utilization of each ground transportation service code derived from only paid claims for the 12 months ending September 30, 2017. The higher of the two methodologies will then be multiplied by 68.59% to establish the AHCCCS rate for each ambulance service. These rates will be adjusted with an effective date of October 1 of each subsequent year using the provider-specific rates in effect on July 1 as set by ADHS for each ground ambulance provider that has been issued a CON and utilization data for paid claims and encounters for the 12 months ending September 30th of the previous year. Ground ambulance services provided by an I.H.S. provider or a tribally owned or operated provider with a section 638 agreement that have a Certificate of Necessity (CON) issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) will be reimbursed according to reimbursement methodology 1).

The methodology described in paragraph 2(b) is the following:

- AHCCCS FFS rate = the greater of (Methodology 1 weighted average rate * 0.6859) or (Methodology 2 weighted average rate * 0.6859).
- Methodology 1 weighted average rate = $(C + D) / (A + B)$
- Methodology 2 weighted average rate = C / A

Where:

A = FFY 2017 total units billed for the service on FFS claims
B = FFY 2017 total units billed for the service on MCO encounters
C = FFY 2017 total reimbursements for the service on FFS claims
D = FFY 2017 total reimbursements for the service on MCO encounters

3) Air Ambulance Rates

AHCCCS establishes reimbursement rates for air ambulance services. For claims with dates of service on or before December 31, 2015, the reimbursement rates are based on a cost study of Air Ambulance Costs conducted in 2000 to establish the initial rates for specialty and non-specialty transports, and are adjusted periodically based on the Consumer Price Index for Other Medical Professionals, the CPI for Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration forecast of jet fuel prices. For claims with dates of service from January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, the reimbursement rates are based on a study of non-specialty transport and mileage ambulance rates in other western states, setting the AHCCCS rates for non-specialty transports and mileage only equal to the average rate among the states studied. However, rates for specialty transports remain unchanged from those in effect on December 31, 2015. For dates of service after October 1, 2016, air ambulance rates can be found at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

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Supersedes

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