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**Date:** April 14, 2020

**To:** All OHP Enrolled Ambulance Providers, Fee-For-Service Brokerages, and Coordinated Care Organizations

**From:** Lori Coyner, State Medicaid Director

**Subject:** Ambulance transport and reimbursement policies during the COVID-19 emergency

On behalf of all Oregonians, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) appreciates everything our first responders and EMS communities are doing every day and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under our federal emergency declarations, CMS-approved 1135 Emergency Waiver, and disaster relief State Plan Amendments (SPAs), OHA is allowing flexibilities for non-emergency ambulance transports and increasing reimbursement rates for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency declaration for first responders providing “Treat in Place” services.

### **Treat in Place Rate Increase**

During this time, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will increase our reimbursement rates for ambulances that provide “Treat in Place” services for Oregon Health Plan members not enrolled in a coordinated care organization (CCO). The increase is retroactive for services rendered after March 18<sup>th</sup>. In recognition that “Treat in Place” calls can use the same amount of resources to transport crew, equipment, medications, Personal Protective Equipment, and other expenses, OHA will increase the rate from \$54.45 billed under procedure code A0998 (Aid Call) to the ALS1 Base Rate of A0427 \$420.62 for the remainder of the COVID-19 emergency.

### **Ambulance Transports for COVID-19 Positive or Presumptive Positive OHP Members**

Ambulances may be used as non-emergent transportation for patients with a positive or presumptive positive COVID-19 diagnosis who need to access primary care, urgent care, or other non-hospital level of care. These trips can follow the same protocols as a hospital run (e.g., advance notice of arrival).

### **What should you do?**

Providers can bill for ambulance services as outlined in the [Medical Transportation Services Provider Guide](#). As a reminder, for persons enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, providers should bill Medicare first and report Medicaid as secondary. Medicare will process your claim and forward it to OHA for coordination of benefits.

### **Services for Members Enrolled in Coordinated Care Organizations**

For the duration of this emergency, OHA is directing CCOs to increase their reimbursement for procedure code A0998 to the ALS 1 Base Rate of A0427. OHA is not directing CCOs to align their reimbursement rates with Fee-For-Service rates, only to increase from the Aid Call rate to the ALS 1 Base Rate.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, contact Mary Durrant at [mary.durrant@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:mary.durrant@dhsoha.state.or.us) or 503-947-2634.

Thank you for your commitment to serving Oregon communities and the important roles you play in supporting Oregon's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.