

ORIGINAL

State/Territory: Virgin Islands

AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY

24. Any other medical care and any other type of remedial care recognized under State law, specified by the Secretary.
- a. Transportation
 Provided: No limitations With limitations
 Not provided

 - b. Services of Christian Science Nurses
 Provided: No limitations With limitations
 Not provided

 - c. Care and services provided in Christian Science sanatoria
 Provided: No limitations With limitations
 Not provided

 - d. Nursing facility services for patients under 21 years of age
 Provided: No limitations With limitations
 Not provided

 - e. Emergency hospital services
 Provided: No limitations With limitations
 Not provided

 - f. Personal care services in recipient's home, prescribed in accordance with a plan of treatment and provided by a qualified person under supervision of a registered nurse.
 Provided: No limitations With limitations
 Not provided

*Description provided on attachment.

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Supersedes
TN No. 91-6

Approval Date

DEC 01 2009

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OFFICIAL

Methods of Providing Transportation to Medical Assistance Recipients

1. Transportation and other related travel services incident to securing medically necessary care and/or treatment are provided when prior authorization is obtained from the Medicaid Agency and when transportation is not otherwise available.
2. Transportation is paid as an expense of administration.
3. Kinds of travel covered:
 - a. Same island travel: emergency and non-emergency;
 - b. Inter-island travel: emergency and non-emergency; and
 - c. Off-island travel to Puerto Rico or to the contiguous United States: emergency and non-emergency.
4. Methods of travel:
 - a. Same island non-emergency travel, when transportation is not otherwise available through the recipient's family, friends or community resources who will provide the service free, will include bus, taxi, automobile, ground ambulance, and common carriers. Non-emergency travel to receive pharmacy services will be provided only when transportation is not otherwise available through the recipient's family, friends or community resources who will provide the service free **and** the pharmacy does not have a home delivery service. Emergency ambulance services shall be provided only when it is a medical emergency and when the recipient has a life-threatening condition and requires immediate travel to the nearest medical facility able to provide required services.
 - b. Inter-island non-emergency travel will include airplanes, seaplanes, boat and air ambulance services. The Medicaid Agency will provide for transportation via bus, taxi, automobile, ground ambulance or common carrier for travel from airports or lodging establishments to the medical care or facility where the recipient is receiving medically necessary services when it is not otherwise available through the recipient's family, friends or community resources who will provide the service free. Emergency air ambulance services shall be provided only when it is a medical emergency and when the recipient has a life-threatening condition and requires immediate travel to nearest medical facility able to provide required services.
 - c. Off-island non-emergency travel to Puerto Rico and the contiguous United States will include commercial airplanes and air ambulances. Emergency air ambulance services shall be provided only when it is a medical emergency and when the recipient has a life-

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threatening condition and requires immediate travel to nearest medical facility able to provide required services. Once in Puerto Rico or the contiguous United States the Medicaid Agency will provide for transportation via bus, taxi, automobile, ambulance or common carrier for travel from airports or lodging establishments to the medical care or facility where the recipient is receiving needed services when it is not otherwise available through the recipient's family, friends or community resources who will provide the service free.

5. Arrangements for travel: The Medicaid Agency is responsible for making the necessary arrangements for travel. Medicaid Agency staff shall coordinate such arrangements with family, responsible referring agencies, social service or nursing staff, and/or staff at the medical facility where the recipient is receiving needed services as appropriate.
6. Factors considered in selecting means of travel:
 - a. The Medicaid Agency shall consider the recipient's medical needs, as well as least expensive available transportation that will serve the medical needs of the recipient when determining the type of travel to be provided.
 - b. The Medicaid Agency is not obliged to provide transportation when it is not medically necessary or it is provided in a manner which is beyond reasonable measures. Non-emergency medical transportation will only be provided to eligible recipients when it is necessary for them to access medically necessary services covered under the State Plan. Transportation will be provided to the closest available provider of the services required to treat the patient's medical condition.
7. Coverage for Attendant/Escort: In addition to providing same island, inter-island and off-island transportation to the recipient, the Medicaid Agency will cover same island, inter-island and off-island transportation for one parent or attendant/escort for all minor children and individuals with a legal guardian assigned to them. The Medicaid Agency will provide meals and lodging for the attendant/escort when accompanying a minor child or adult with a legal guardian assigned to them receiving medically necessary health care at a facility not on their home island (includes inter-island and off-island). All transportation, meals and lodging for attendants/escorts shall be prior authorized by the Medicaid Agency.
8. Administrative Controls
 - a. Prior authorization is required for all transportation except for: (1) same-island emergency ambulance service; (2) inter-island emergency air or boat ambulance services; and (3) off-island emergency air ambulance. Although prior authorization is not required, the Medicaid Agency requires written notification within 24 hours of any off-island emergency air ambulance service utilization and this service is subject to post-treatment review by the Medicaid Agency. The evaluation of referrals for off-island care

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involves also the medical and/or social need of escort and type of escort whether relative, nurse or doctor.

- a. The Medicaid Agency assures that the most appropriate plan for recipient travel is implemented.
- b. The Medicaid Agency prepares official documents and provides proper travel related instructions to the recipient and attendant/escort (if applicable).

9. Reimbursement

Emergency services provided by the Department of Health will be reimbursed according to the Medicare fee schedule.

For all other transportation providers, according to 42 CFR 447.325, the Medicaid Agency will pay customary charges of transportation providers, but not more than the prevailing charges for comparable services under comparable circumstances. The Medicaid Agency will conduct annual surveys of transportation providers to ascertain the prevailing charges.

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