

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED POLICY

Public Act 280 of 1939, as amended, and consultation guidelines for Medicaid policy provide an opportunity to review proposed changes in Medicaid policies and procedures.

Please review the policy summary and the attached materials that describe the specific changes being proposed. Let us know why you support the change or oppose the change.

Submit your comments to the analyst by the due date specified. Your comments must be received by the due date to be considered for the final policy bulletin.

Thank you for participating in the consultation process.



Director, Program Policy Division
Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Health System Innovation

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| Project Number: | 1534-NEMT | Comments Due: | August 18, 2015 | Proposed Effective Date: | October 1, 2015 |
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Policy Subject: Changes to Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Prior Authorization Requirements for Locally Authorized Methadone-Related Treatment and Meals & Lodging

Affected Programs: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

Distribution: Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) Holders, Medicaid Health Plans

Policy Summary: Effective October 1, 2015, Medicaid is removing the prior authorization (PA) requirement for NEMT to methadone treatment that extends beyond 18 months. In addition, Medicaid is requiring documentation of meal and lodging rates for reimbursement to NEMT providers, eliminating the PA requirement for meals not involving overnight stays, and requiring that expenses for overnight hospital stays (regardless of whether it is considered inpatient or outpatient) beyond five nights receive PA.

Purpose: The initial stabilization phase of methadone treatment is longer than the transportation limit allowed without PA. Medicaid policy does not restrict the total length of time for methadone-related treatment. This proposed change allows methadone-related transportation to be authorized without PA for the duration of treatment, and may prevent or reduce access to care issues.

Documentation of meals and lodging expenses are currently not required by policy. Additionally, NEMT policy related to medically necessary overnight hospital stays, as well as meals for same-day trips, requires clarification.

Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Services Administration

Distribution: Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) Holders, Medicaid Health Plans

Issued: September 1, 2015 (Proposed)

Subject: Changes to NEMT Prior Authorization Requirements for Locally Authorized Methadone-Related Treatment and Meals & Lodging

Effective: October 1, 2015 (Proposed)

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Medicaid transportation contractor staff of changes to Medicaid's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) policy. Effective October 1, 2015, prior authorization (PA) for NEMT to methadone treatment is no longer required for opiate-dependent beneficiaries. In addition, policies for local office authorization for meals and lodging are being modified. Refer to the MDHHS Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 825 for complete information regarding Medicaid NEMT policy.

Methadone Treatment

Medicaid is removing the PA requirement for NEMT to methadone treatment that extends beyond 18 months. County MDHHS and transportation contractor staff will be able to authorize expenses for methadone-related Medicaid transportation as necessary, regardless of the treatment duration. Standard Medicaid NEMT policy related to the documentation of medical necessity and payment authorization for services applies.

Authorization for Meals and Lodging

Medicaid has established mileage, lodging, and meal rates for the purpose of reimbursing beneficiaries, their family or friends, foster care parents, medically necessary attendants, and local MDHHS volunteers for expenses incurred while transporting Medicaid beneficiaries (or themselves, in cases where the beneficiary provides their own transportation) to and from Medicaid-covered appointments. Refer to BAM 825 for a complete listing of those who may be reimbursed for NEMT services.

For meal or lodging expenses incurred as a result of NEMT of a Medicaid-enrolled individual to a Medicaid-covered appointment, and reimbursed with Medicaid program funds, repayment may only occur when expenses are verified with original, itemized, unaltered receipts. If Medicaid funds are utilized, meal and lodging expenses are reimbursed at cost or at the maximum rate as defined by BAM 825, whichever is less. There must be no differentiation in Medicaid reimbursement based on the individual or entity that may have provided the service (i.e., different meal or lodging rates for Medicaid beneficiaries versus transportation providers) unless explicitly stated in BAM 825.

Meals that do not involve overnight stays do not require PA from the Medicaid program. Departure and return criteria listed in Exhibit I of BAM 825 apply. Medically necessary overnight stays (inpatient or outpatient, including meals and lodging) for one client and one parent or escort may be authorized for no more than five consecutive nights. With the exception of medically necessary overnight stays at an approved children's hospital, overnight stays (inpatient or outpatient, including meals and lodging) beyond five nights require PA from the Medicaid program.