

Follow-up Information Regarding Air Ambulance Services From Colleen Becker, Senior Policy Specialist, Health Program, National Conference of State Legislatures

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1. **What is the rate at which Medicare/Medicaid pays for air ambulance services?** For Medicaid an air ambulance transport broadly says it will be covered as long as a physician can confirm that the type of transport was necessary. For Medicare they have an air ambulance fee scheduled, I am going to include a link because it's broken down into several different categories. Of course the larger issues as you know is they are largely outside of insurance networks and often charging a lot more than the standard reimbursement rates.

Medicaid Information on Air Ambulances: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-medicaid-coordination/fraud-prevention/medicaid-integrity-education/downloads/nemt-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.hhs.gov/answers/medicare-and-medicaid/does-medicaid-cover-ambulances/index.html>

KFF State Breakdown of Ambulance Services coverage- <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/ambulance-services/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AmbulanceFeeSchedule/afspuf>

Medicare Booklet Qualifying Scenarios along with Billing Practices- <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Medicare-Ambulance-Transports-Booklet-ICN903194.pdf>

NAIC Breakdown of Air Ambulance Coverage- https://content.naic.org/article/consumer_insight_understanding_air_ambulance_insurance_coverage.htm

2. **Is there a federal law that allows air ambulances to refuse transport?** In terms of refusing transport if the companies are outside of an insurance network, and many of them are, and are operating privately then they can refuse based on being a private business. That said the federal law that is largely protecting them in general is the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, they have found a loophole to be treated like commercial airline carriers. The House had proposed a bill to address revising the law to correct what kind of carriers should be covered, the Senate responded with setting up a working group to look into this and DOT also did their study group on this issues since they are the agency authority over the Act. NAIC does a good breakdown of the act.

NAIC Overview of Airline Deregulation Act and Air Ambulances- https://www.naic.org/documents/government_relations_air_ambulance_regulation_issue_brief.pdf