

8.018 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

8.018.1. DEFINITIONS

Air ambulance means a fixed-wing or rotor-wing aircraft that is equipped to provide air transportation and is specifically designed to accommodate the medical needs of individuals who are ill, injured, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated and who require in-flight medical supervision.

Client means a person enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) means an individual who has a current and valid EMT certificate issued by the Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide basic emergency medical care in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight at 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Two. For the purposes of these rules, EMT includes the historic Emergency Medical Service Provider level of EMT-Basic (EMT-B).

Emergency Medical Transportation means ground ambulance or air ambulance transportation for clients who have a critical or unknown illness or injury that demands immediate medical attention to prevent permanent injury or loss of life.

Facility means a general hospital, hospital unit, psychiatric hospital, rehabilitation hospital, or other eligible physical health or behavioral health provider.

Fixed Wing Air Ambulance means transportation by a fixed wing aircraft that is certified as a fixed wing air ambulance, equipped with medically necessary supplies and including the provision of medically necessary services, as defined in section 8.076.1.8.

Ground Ambulance means a ground vehicle, including a water ambulance, designed to accommodate the medical needs of individuals who are ill, injured, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated.

Life Sustaining Supplies means oxygen and oxygen supplies required for life sustaining treatment during transport.

Mileage means the number of miles the client is transported in the ambulance.

Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) means transportation to or from medical treatment that is not emergency in accordance with section 8.014.

Paramedic means an individual who has a current and valid Paramedic certificate issued by the Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide acts of advanced emergency medical care in accordance with the Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight at 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Two. For the purposes of these rules, Paramedic includes the historic Emergency Medical Service Provider level of EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P).

Rotor Wing Air Ambulance means transportation by a helicopter that is certified as an ambulance, equipped with medically necessary supplies and including the provision of medically necessary services, as defined in section 8.076.1.8.

Specialty Care Transport (SCT) means interfacility ground ambulance transportation of a critically injured or ill client from a stabilizing hospital to a hospital with full capabilities to treat the client's case. SCT is necessary when a beneficiary's condition requires ongoing care at a level of service beyond the scope of

the EMT, that must be furnished by one or more health professionals in an appropriate specialty area including, but not limited to, nursing, emergency medicine, respiratory care, cardiovascular care, or a paramedic with additional training).

8.018.2. Client Eligibility

8.018.2.A. Emergency medical transportation is a benefit for all Colorado Medical Assistance Program clients who have a critical or unknown illness or injury that demands immediate medical attention to prevent permanent injury or loss of life.

8.018.3. Provider Eligibility and Responsibilities

8.018.3.A. To provide Emergency Medical Transportation to Colorado Medical Assistance clients, a provider must:

1. Enroll with the Department as an Emergency Medical Transportation provider, meeting the section 8.125 provider screening requirements,
2. Comply with commercial liability insurance requirements,
3. Maintain and comply with the appropriate licensure:
 - a. Ground ambulance license as required by 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Four.
 - b. Air Ambulance license as required by 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Five.
4. License, operate, and equip ground ambulances and air ambulances in accordance with federal and state regulations.
5. Ensure that ground ambulances and air ambulances are staffed and operated by at least two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). One EMT must accompany the client at all times.
6. Ensure that ground ambulances and air ambulances providing services to Medicaid clients are licensed, operated, and equipped in accordance with federal and state regulations.

8.018.4 Covered Services

8.018.4.A. Ground Ambulance

1. The following ground ambulance EMT services are covered:
 - a. Transportation to the closest, most appropriate facility.
 - b. Basic life support or advanced life support during transport.
 - i) Basic life support (BLS) is required to maintain life, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, during transport from the client's pickup point to the provider's facility, without cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring or other invasive techniques.
 - 1) Services during BLS transport may include suctioning en route (not deep suctioning) and airway control/positioning.

- ii) Advanced life support (ALS) is required, following an advanced life support assessment performed by ALS qualified personnel in accordance with State and local laws, at Level 1 or Level 2.
 - 1) ALS Level 1 includes the provision of at least one ALS intervention required to be furnished by ALS personnel.
 - 2) ALS Level 2 includes:
 - a) The administration of at least three medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic, and hypertonic solutions (Dextrose, Normal Saline, Ringer's Lactate); or
 - b) The provision of at least one of the following ALS procedures:
 - i. Manual defibrillation/cardioversion.
 - ii. Endotracheal intubation.
 - iii. Central venous line.
 - iv. Cardiac pacing.
 - v. Chest decompression.
 - vi. Surgical airway.
 - vii. Intraosseous line.
 - c. Specialty Care Transport when medically necessary to reach the closest, most appropriate facility.

8.018.4.B. Air Ambulance

- 1. Air ambulance EMT services are covered when:
 - a. They meet the criteria at section 8.018.4.A.1.b.-c., and
 - b. The point of pick up is inaccessible by a ground ambulance, or great distances or other obstacles prohibit transporting the client by land to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

8.018.5. NON-COVERED EMT SERVICES AND GENERAL LIMITATIONS

8.018.5.A. The following services are not covered or reimbursable:

- 1. Waiting time, cancellations or additional passengers.
- 2. Response calls when determined no transportation is needed or approved.
- 3. Charges when the client is not in the vehicle.

4. Non-benefit services (e.g., first aid) provided at the scene when transportation is not necessary.
5. Transportation which is covered by another entity.
6. Transportation to local treatment programs not enrolled in Colorado Medical Assistance Program.
7. Transportation of a client who has been pronounced deceased at the time that the ambulance arrives.
8. Pick up or delivery of prescriptions or supplies.
9. Transportation arranged for a client's convenience when there is no reasonable risk of permanent injury or loss of life.
10. Transportation to non-emergency medical appointments or services.

8.018.6 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

8.018.6.A. Prior Authorization is not required for ground ambulance EMT, air ambulance EMT, or for interfacility transport, including specialty care transport.