

EMS Day at the Capitol April 10th, 2019

Issue Paper: Medicaid GEMT Reimbursement Program

Presented By: Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin EMS Association, and the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association.

The **Medicaid Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program** provides supplemental payments to GEMT providers, using Federal dollars. The supplemental payments cover the funding gap between a provider's actual costs per GEMT transport and the allowable amount received from Medicaid.

This is how the GEMT Reimbursement Program is implemented in another state:

- An average Medicaid payment was \$120.00 per trip.
- Actual cost of the transport was determined to be \$2,478.26 per trip.
(It would most likely be less in the State of Wisconsin.)
- $2,478.26 - \$120.00 = \$2,358.26$ is a difference of the cost of the call, minus the Medicaid Reimbursement.
- Applying a cost share formula of 50% decreases the final Federal reimbursement payment to \$1,179.13 per trip.
- At the end of each fiscal year, each entity would submit a list of all the Medicaid trips in the previous year.
- An annual payment would be sent to the transporting entity, which equaled the number of Medicaid trips X the cost of the trip.

Here is an example using numbers from Wisconsin:

- An Ambulance service performs 100 Medicaid transports that were ALS1 non-emergent transports. Regardless of what was charged, the Medicaid payment would be \$113.88 X 100 trips = \$11,388.00.
- For this example, let's say that the actual costs to perform the trip were determined to be \$1,200.00. Thus, $\$1,200.00 - \$113.88 = \$1,086.12$.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the Service could request a payment for $\$1,086.12 \times 100 \text{ trips} = \$108,612.00$. Even if the 50% formula was added to the equation, the annual Federal reimbursement would be a payment of \$54,306...which is still much better than what the total of the combined original payments would have been, at \$11,388.00.

The benefits of this program are multi-fold:

1. The reimbursements are 100% from the Federal government —not from the State of Wisconsin;
2. The reimbursements are based on the actual cost of the trip / transport...not on an obscure or outdated formula;
3. It is a voluntary program, so each Service can determine if they wish to participate.

Solution

Legislation is not required to implement this program. That said, most States that have implemented the GEMT Reimbursement Program have passed legislation, in order to provide guidance for the State Medicaid Office to implement the GEMT program.

We ask that you support Legislation authorizing DHS to seek the Federal funds to support the Medicaid GEMT Reimbursement Program.

