

## **2016-17 State Budget Ambulette Ambulatory Implementation Information**

### **Background**

The 2016-17 enacted State Budget requires statewide implementation of the Ambulette Ambulatory category of service to achieve cost efficiencies and improve program accountability by better aligning reimbursement with the transportation service being provided. This level of service has been successfully used in 15 upstate counties (including Albany and Westchester) for several years. Since May 1, 2016, ambulette-ambulatory is being assigned in all upstate counties. Implementation in all upstate counties has been without any service disruptions or transportation access issues. Effective October 1, 2016, this new category of ambulette service will be implemented in New York City and Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk counties).

### **New York City and Long Island Fees and Assignment**

Effective 10/1/16, the ambulette-ambulatory level of service will be implemented in New York City and Long Island. The ambulette-ambulatory fee will be paid at 80% of the ambulette fee in these areas and assigned using the procedure codes listed below:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Procedure Code</b>	<b>Fee</b>
NYC Ambulette-Ambulatory (Inside CMMA)	A0130/HH	\$26.40
NYC Ambulette-Ambulatory (Outside CMMA)	A0130/TV	\$36.00
Suffolk Ambulette-Ambulatory	A0130/HH	\$40.00
Nassau Ambulette-Ambulatory	A0130/HH	\$40.00

Hospital discharges will continue to be paid using the same fees and procedure codes currently in place. Ambulette mileage is paid at the regular ambulette fee level. In New York City, mileage is applicable after 8.0 passenger-laden miles from mile 8 to the end of the passenger-laden trip. The Manhattan surcharge is paid at the discretion of the Department and/or its transportation manager, one per trip flat fee add-on per Medicaid passenger for one-way trips exceeding 3 miles in duration originating from or ending at destinations below 110th Street in Manhattan.

### **Eligible for Ambulatory/Services to be Excluded**

Ambulette-ambulatory level of service is appropriate for those enrollees who can ambulate but require personal door through door assistance from the ambulette driver. Enrollees who are assigned this level of service will receive door-through-door personal assistance. This level is not appropriate for wheelchair-bound enrollees and will not affect enrollees being transported to and from the specialty care categories listed below:

- Adult Day
- Cancer Treatment
- Developmental Disabled Facility
- Dialysis
- Hospice Services
- Mental Health and Mental Retardation Facilities
- Nursing Home
- Surgical Center
- Transplant Center

The exclusion list above is only applicable for trips to and from the listed categories. For other transportation to services outside of these listed, the Department has instructed its transportation manager to assign trips as documented in the approved DOH Form 2015. Certain trips beyond this exclusion list may not be assigned as ambulette-ambulatory as the Department has instructed the transportation managers to monitor these assignments and use discretion case by case, for transportation requiring special handling.