

Transporting a Medicaid Enrollee Who Needs To Be Lifted Onto an Examination Table

Medicaid will reimburse for the most appropriate mode of transportation required to transport an eligible enrollee to a Medicaid covered service. Due to the increasing number of wheelchair users with excessive weight issues and other disabilities that are unable to transfer out of a wheelchair, the enrollees are faced with the prospect of requiring a lift out of the wheelchair onto an examination table.

When a wheelchair user is unable to move from the wheelchair and needs to be lifted (i.e., transferred) from the wheelchair onto an examination table, this transfer is the responsibility of a personal aide of the enrollee and/or medical practitioner. Lifting of the enrollee is not the responsibility of the transportation driver.

It is not appropriate to request the stretcher mode of transportation for an enrollee in order for the enrollee to be transferred easily onto the examination table by the stretcher personnel. Stretcher mode is inappropriate for transportation purposes because the enrollee can be safely transported in a wheelchair.

For wheelchair users who need assistance in getting out of their chair, orderers of transportation need to coordinate the enrollee's medical care among those practitioners who are able to accommodate the lifting of the enrollee onto the examination table.

Transportation vendors should not be required to:

- accompany the enrollee throughout their appointment for the purposes of relaying treatment information to the nursing home staff or caregiver;
- enter an examination room for the purposes of transferring the enrollee on or off of an examination table; nor,
- leave provider-owned equipment (i.e., a stretcher) at the treating facility in order for the medical practitioner to render necessary treatment.

Questions? Please contact the Medicaid Transportation Policy Unit staff at (518) 473-2160 or e-mail MedTrans@health.state.ny.us.