



Position Statement

Medical transportation payment authorization assigned to counties

*Adopted July 13, 2002 by the
Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Inc.*

Colorado has recently issued a new rule concerning medical transportation, making the counties responsible for authorizing payment of non-emergency medical transportation. (<http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/StateRules/Proposed/2002-03doc1.pdf>)

The process set forth in the rule is cumbersome.

Responding to an unexplained increase in non-emergency medical transportation costs (<http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/Budget/hcpfig.pdf>) the State began exploring alternatives to the current system of reimbursement. The solution offered by the State is to transfer the burden of reviewing and authorizing payment to the counties.

Many counties are ill-equipped to shoulder this duty. On May 10, 2002, several counties raised these concerns with the Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing Medical Services Board (<http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/msb/minutes/02May.html>). As a result, medical transportation services will be adversely impacted. Further, these rules will probably result in an increase in Medicaid costs as family members opt out of providing transportation due to the rule.

Colorado already had one of the lowest Medicaid transportation reimbursement rates in the nation, which is now even lower with the 5% reduction of rates necessitated by the budget shortfall (<http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/Budget/ratereduce.htm>). This combined with the cumbersome new system will make the economics of providing transportation services to Medicaid clients unworkable to most EMS providers.

EMSAC urges the preservation of current levels of Medicaid funding for medical transportation. As Colorado has some of the lowest levels of ambulance and medical transportation reimbursement rates in the country, additional cuts in Medicaid medical transportation reimbursements will have an adverse impact on ambulance services and their Medicaid patients in Colorado.*

