

**§ 414.615 Transition for implementation of the ambulance fee schedule.**

The fee schedule for ambulance services will be phased in over 4 years beginning January 1, 2001. Payment for services furnished during the transition period are made based on a combination of the fee schedule payment for ambulance services and the amount the carrier would have paid absent the fee schedule for ambulance services, as follows:

(a) For services furnished in CY 2001, the payment is based 80 percent on the reasonable charge-based payments for independent suppliers and 80 percent on reasonable cost for providers, plus 20 percent of the ambulance fee schedule amount. The reasonable charge or reasonable cost portion of payment in CY 2001 is equal to the reasonable charge or reasonable cost for CY 2000, multiplied by the statutory inflation factors for ambulance services.

(b) For services furnished in CY 2002, the payment is based 50 percent on the reasonable charge or reasonable cost, as applicable, plus 50 percent of the ambulance fee schedule amount. The reasonable charge and reasonable cost portion in CY 2002 is equal to the supplier or provider's reasonable charge

or reasonable cost for CY 2001, multiplied by the statutory inflation factors for ambulance services.

(c) For services furnished in CY 2003, the payment is based 20 percent on the reasonable charge or reasonable cost, plus 80 percent of the ambulance fee schedule amount. The reasonable charge and reasonable cost in CY 2003 for each supplier or provider respectively is equal to the supplier or provider's reasonable charge or reasonable cost for CY 2002, multiplied by the statutory inflation factors for ambulance services.

(d) For services furnished in CY 2004 and thereafter, the payment is based solely on the ambulance fee schedule amount.

(e) *Updates.* The portion of the transition payment that is based on the existing payment methodology (that is, the non fee schedule portion) is updated annually for inflation by a factor equal to the projected consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average), from March to March for claims paid under cost reimbursement and from June to June for claims paid under reasonable charges, minus 1 percentage point. The portion of the transition payment that is based on the ambulance fee schedule is updated

annually for inflation as described in § 414.610(e).

**§ 414.620 Publication of the ambulance services fee schedule.**

Each year, HCFA will publish updates to the fee schedule for ambulance services.

**§ 414.625 Limitation on review.**

There shall be no administrative or judicial review under sections 1869 of the Act or otherwise of the amounts established under the fee schedule for ambulance services, including but not limited to matters described in section 1834(l)(2) of the Act.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: August 15, 2000.

**Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,**  
*Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.*

Dated: August 31, 2000.

**Donna E. Shalala,**  
*Secretary.*

**Note:** The following addendum will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

**ADDENDUM A**

[\*\*When using this chart, use all codes that apply\*\*]

#	On-scene condition (general)	On-scene condition (specific)	Svc. Lev.	Comments and examples [not all-inclusive]
<b>Emergency Conditions (non-traumatic)</b>				
1	Abdominal pain	With other signs or symptoms	ALS	Nausea, vomiting, fainting, pulsatile mass, distention, rigid, tenderness on exam, guarding.
2	Abdominal pain	Without other signs or symptoms	BLS	
3	Abnormal cardiac rhythm/Cardiac dysrhythmia.	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Bradycardia, junctional and ventricular blocks, non-sinus tachycardias, PVC's >6, bi and trigeminy, vtach, vfib, atrial flutter, PEA, asystole.
4	Abnormal skin signs		ALS	Diaphoresis, cyanosis, delayed cap refill, poor turgor, mottled.
5	Abnormal vital signs (includes abnormal pulse oximetry).	With symptoms	ALS	Other emergency conditions.
6	Abnormal vital signs (includes abnormal pulse oximetry).	Without symptoms	BLS	
7	Allergic reaction	Potentially life-threatening	DALS	Other emergency conditions, rapid progression of symptoms, prior hx. of anaphylaxis, wheezing, difficulty swallowing.
8	Allergic reaction	Other	BLS	Hives, itching, rash, slow onset, local swelling, redness, erythema.
9	Animal bites/sting/envenomation	Potentially life or limb-threatening	ALS	Symptoms of specific envenomation, significant face, neck, trunk, and extremity involvement; other emergency conditions.
10	Animal bites/sting/envenomation	Other	BLS	Local pain and swelling, special handling considerations and patient monitoring required.
11	Sexual assault	With injuries	ALS	
12	Sexual assault	With no injuries	BLS	
13	Blood glucose	Abnormal— <80 or >250, with symptoms.	ALS	Altered mental status, vomiting, signs of dehydration, etc.

## ADDENDUM A—Continued

[\*\* When using this chart, use all codes that apply \*\*]

#	On-scene condition (general)	On-scene condition (specific)	Svc. Lev.	Comments and examples [not all-inclusive]
14	Respiratory arrest		ALS	Apnea, hypoventilation requiring ventilatory assistance and airway management.
15	Difficulty breathing		ALS	
16	Cardiac arrest—Resuscitation in progress.		ALS	
17	Chest pain (non-traumatic)		ALS	Dull, severe, crushing, substernal, epigastric, left sided chest pain associated with pain of the jaw, left arm, neck, back, and nausea, vomiting, palpitations, pallor, diaphoresis, decreased LOC.
18	Choking episode		ALS	
19	Cold exposure	Potentially life or limb threatening	ALS	Temperature < 95F, deep frost bite, other emergency conditions.
20	Cold exposure	With symptoms	BLS	Shivering, superficial frost bite, and other emergency conditions.
21	Altered level of consciousness (non-traumatic).		ALS	Acute condition with Glasgow Coma Scale < 15.
22	Convulsions/Seizures	Seizing, immediate post-seizure, post-ictal, or at risk of seizure & requires medical monitoring/observation.	ALS	
23	Eye symptoms, non-traumatic	Acute vision loss and/or severe pain	BLS	
24	Non traumatic headache	With neurologic distress conditions	ALS	
25	Non traumatic headache	Without neurologic symptoms	BLS	
26	Cardiac Symptoms other than chest pain.	Palpitations, skipped beats	ALS	
27	Cardiac symptoms other than chest pain.	Atypical pain or other symptoms	ALS	Persistent nausea and vomiting, weakness, hiccups, pleuritic pain, feeling of impending doom, and other emergency conditions.
28	Heat Exposure	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Hot and dry skin, Temp > 105, neurologic distress, signs of heat stroke or heat exhaustion, orthostatic vitals, other emergency conditions.
29	Heat exposure	With symptoms	BLS	Muscle cramps, profuse sweating, fatigue.
30	Hemorrhage	Severe (quantity)	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant signs of shock, other emergency conditions.
31	Hemorrhage	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Active vaginal, rectal bleeding, hematemesis, hemoptysis, epistaxis, active post-surgical bleeding.
32	Infectious diseases requiring isolation procedures / public health risk.		BLS	
33	Hazmat Exposure		ALS	Toxic fume or liquid exposure via inhalation, absorption, oral, radiation, smoke inhalation.
34	Medical Device Failure	Life or limb threatening malfunction, failure, or complication.	ALS	Malfunction of ventilator, internal pacemaker, internal defibrillator, implanted drug delivery device.
35	Medical Device Failure	Health maintenance device failures	BLS	O2 supply malfunction, orthopedic device failure.
36	Neurologic Distress	Facial drooping; loss of vision; aphasia; difficulty swallowing; numbness, tingling extremity; stupor, delirium, confusion, hallucinations; paralysis, paresis (focal weakness); abnormal movements; vertigo; unsteady gait/balance; slurred speech, unable to speak.	ALS	
37	Pain, acute and severe not otherwise specified in this list.	Patient needs specialized handling to be moved: pain exacerbated by movement.	BLS	
38	Pain, severe not otherwise specified in this list.	Acute onset, unable to ambulate or sit	BLS	Pain is the reason for the transport.
39		Pain, severe not otherwise specified in this list.	ALS	Use severity scale (7–10 for severe pain), pt. receiving pre-hospital pharmacologic intervention.

ADDENDUM A—Continued

[\*\* When using this chart, use all codes that apply \*\*]

#	On-scene condition (general)	On-scene condition (specific)	Svc. Lev.	Comments and examples [not all-inclusive]
40 .....	Back pain—non-traumatic (T and/or LS).	Suspect cardiac or vascular etiology ....	ALS	Other emergency conditions, absence of or decreased leg pulses, pulsatile abdominal mass, severe tearing abdominal pain. Neurologic distress list.
41 .....	Back pain—non-traumatic (T and/or LS).	New neurologic symptoms .....	ALS	
42 .....	Poisons, ingested, injected, inhaled, absorbed.	Adverse drug reaction, poison exposure by inhalation, injection or absorption.	ALS	Suicidal, homicidal, hallucinations, violent, Disoriented, DT's, withdrawal symptoms, transport required by state law/court order.
43 .....	Alcohol intoxication, drug overdose (suspected).	Unable to care for self; unable to ambulate; no risk to airway; no other symptoms.	BLS.	
44 .....	Alcohol intoxication, drug overdose (suspected).	All others, including airway at risk, pharmacological intervention, cardiac monitoring.	ALS.	
45 .....	Post—operative procedure complications.	Major wound dehiscence, evisceration, or requires special handling for transport.	BLS	
46 .....	Pregnancy complication/ Childbirth/ Labor.	.....	ALS	
47 .....	Psychiatric/Behavioral .....	Abnormal mental status; drug withdrawal.	ALS	
48 .....	Psychiatric/Behavioral .....	Threat to self or others, severe anxiety, acute episode or exacerbation of paranoia, or disruptive behavior.	BLS	
49 .....	Sick Person .....	Fever with associated symptoms (headache, stiff neck, etc.).	ALS	
50 .....	Sick Person .....	Fever without associated symptoms .....	BLS	
51 .....	Sick Person .....	No other symptoms .....	BLS	
52 .....	Sick Person .....	Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, severe and incapacitating.	ALS	
53 .....	Unconscious, Fainting, Syncope .....	Transient unconscious episode or found unconscious.	ALS	>102 in adults; >104 in children. With other emergency conditions
54 .....	Near syncope, weakness or dizziness	Acute episode or exacerbation .....	ALS	
55 .....	Medical/Legal .....	State or local ordinance requires ambulance transport under certain conditions.	BLS	

Emergency Conditions—Trauma

56 .....	Major trauma .....	As defined by ACS Field Triage Decision Scheme.	ALS	Trauma with one of the following: Glasgow <14; systolic BP<90; RR<10 or >29; all penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, extremities proximal to elbow or knee; flail chest; combination of trauma and burns; pelvic fracture; 2 or more long bone fractures; open or depressed skull fracture; paralysis; severe mechanism of injury including: ejection, death of another passenger in same patient compartment, falls >20", 20" deformity in vehicle or 12" deformity of patient compartment, auto pedestrian/bike, pedestrian thrown/run over, motorcycle accident at speeds >20 mph and rider separated from vehicle.
57 .....	Other trauma .....	Need to monitor or maintain airway .....	ALS	Decreased LOC, bleeding into airway, trauma to head, face or neck.
58 .....	Other trauma .....	Major bleeding .....	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant bleeding.
59 .....	Other trauma .....	Suspected fracture/dislocation requiring splinting/immobilization for transport.	BLS	Spinal, long bones, and joints including shoulder elbow, wrist, hip, knee, and ankle, deformity of bone or joint.
60 .....	Other trauma .....	Penetrating extremity injuries .....	BLS	Isolated with bleeding stopped and good CSM.
61 .....	Other trauma .....	Amputation—digits .....	BLS	

ADDENDUM A—Continued

[\*\* When using this chart, use all codes that apply \*\*]

#	On-scene condition (general)	On-scene condition (specific)	Svc. Lev.	Comments and examples [not all-inclusive]
62 .....	Other trauma .....	Amputation—all other .....	ALS	Signs of closed head injury, open head injury, pneumothorax, hemothorax, abdominal bruising, positive abdominal signs on exam, internal bleeding criteria, evisceration. See severity scale. Ambulance required because injury is associated with other emergency conditions or other reasons for transport exist such as special patient handling or patient safety issues. Partial thickness burns > 10% TBSA; involvement of face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints; third degree burns; electrical; chemical; inhalation; burns with preexisting medical disorders; burns and trauma; Other burns than listed above.
63 .....	Other trauma .....	Suspected internal, head, chest, or abdominal injuries.	ALS	
64 .....	Other trauma .....	Severe pain requiring pharmacologic pain control.	ALS	
65 .....	Other trauma .....	Trauma NOS: it is up to the provider to furnish sufficient documentation to support this claim.	BLS	
66 .....	Burns .....	Major—per ABA .....	ALS	
67 .....	Burns .....	Minor—per ABA .....	BLS	
68 .....	Lightning .....		ALS	
69 .....	Electrocution .....		ALS	
70 .....	Near Drowning .....		ALS	
71 .....	Eye injuries .....	Acute vision loss or blurring, severe pain or chemical exposure, penetrating, severe lid lacerations.	BLS	

#	Reason for transport (general)	Reason for transport (specific)	Svc. Lev.	Comments
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**Non-Emergency**

72 .....	Bed confined (at the time of transport)	*Unable to get up without assistance; and *Unable to ambulate; and *Unable to sit in a chair or wheelchair	BLS	Patient is going to a medical procedure, treatment, testing, or evaluation that is medically necessary.
73 .....	ALS monitoring, required .....	Cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring required en route.	ALS	Expectation monitoring is needed before and after transport.
74 .....	ALS monitoring, required .....	Advanced airway management .....	ALS	Ventilator dependent, apnea monitor, possible intubation needed, deep suctioning.
75 .....	ALS monitoring, required .....	IV meds required en route .....	ALS	Does not apply to self-administered IV medications.
76 .....	ALS monitoring, required .....	Chemical restraint .....	ALS	Per transfer instructions.
77 .....	BLS monitoring required .....	Suctioning required en route .....	BLS	
78 .....	BLS monitoring required .....	Airway control/positioning required en route.	BLS	
79 .....	BLS monitoring required .....	Third party assistance/attendant required to apply, administer, or regulate or adjust oxygen en route.	BLS	Does not apply to patient capable of self-administration of portable or home O2. Patient must require oxygen therapy and be so frail as to require assistance.
80 .....	Specialty care monitoring .....	A level of service provided to a critically injured or ill patient beyond the scope of the national paramedic curriculum.	SCT	

81 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Patient Safety: Danger to self or others.	In restraints .....	BLS	Refer to definition in the CFR—sec. 482.13(e).
82 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Patient safety: Danger to self or others.	Monitoring .....	BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires monitoring for safety.

83 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Patient safety: Danger to self or others.	Seclusion (Flight risk).	BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires attendant to assure patient does not try to exit the ambulance prematurely. CFR sec. 482.13(f)(2) for definition.
84 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Patient safety	Risk of falling off wheel chair or stretcher while in motion.	BLS	Patient's physical condition is such that patient risks injury during vehicle movement despite restraints. Indirect indicators include MDS criteria.
85 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Special handling en route.	Isolation .....	BLS	Includes patients with communicable diseases or hazardous material exposure who must be isolated from public or whose medical condition must be protected from public exposure; surgical drainage complications.
86 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Special handling en route.	Patient Size .....	BLS	Morbid obesity which requires additional personnel or equipment to transfer.
87 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Special handling en route.	Orthopedic device ...	BLS	Backboard, halotraction, use of pins and traction, etc.
88 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Special handling en route.	1 person for physical assistance in transfers.	BLS	
89 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Special handling en route.	Severe pain .....	BLS	Pain must be aggravated by transfers or moving vehicle such that trained expertise of EMT required (pain scale). Pain is present, but is not sole reason for transport.
90 .....	Medical conditions that contraindicate transport by other means.	Special handling en route.	Positioning requires specialized handling.	BLS	Requires special handling to avoid further injury (such as with >grade 2 decubiti on buttocks). Generally does not apply to shorter transfers of <1 hour. Positioning in wheelchair or standard car seat inappropriate due to contractures or recent extremity fractures—post-op hip as an example.

#	Reason for transfer (general)	Reason for transfer (specific)	Ser. Lev.	Comments
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**Inter-facility**

91 .....	EMTALA-certified inter-facility transfer to a higher level of care.	Physician has made the determination that this transfer is needed—Carrier only needs to know the level of care and mode of transport.	BLS, ALS, SCT, FW, RW ..	Excludes patient-requested EMTALA transfer.
92 .....	Service not available at originating facility, and must meet one or more emergency or non-emergency conditions.	.....	BLS, ALS, SCT, FW, RW ..	Specify what service is not available.
93 .....	Service not covered .....	Indicates to Carrier that claim should be automatically denied.		