

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 1185	Date: FEBRUARY 23, 2007
	Change Request 5442

Subject: Ambulance Fee Schedule - Medical Conditions List - Manualization Revisions

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This document furnishes the revised Ambulance Medical Conditions List to Contractors and Maintainers.

New / Revised Material

Effective Date: April 1, 2007

Implementation Date: April 2, 2007

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	Chapter / Section / Subsection / Title
R	15/Table of Contents
R	15/30.3/Ambulance Fee Schedule - Medical Conditions List and Instructions

III. FUNDING:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; Contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2007 operating budgets.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Business Requirements

Manual Instruction

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility (place an "X" in each applicable column)										
		A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I I E R	C A R I C E R	D M R R C	R H H I	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
						F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F			
5442.3	Contractors shall post this entire instruction, or a direct link to this instruction, on their Web site and include information about it in a listserv message within 1 week of the release of this instruction. In addition, the entire instruction must be included in your next regularly scheduled bulletin and incorporated into any educational events on this topic. Contractors are free to supplement it with localized information that would benefit their provider community in billing and administering the Medicare program correctly.	X		X	X							

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A. For any recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements, use the box below:

Use "Should" to denote a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:
	N/A

B. For all other recommendations and supporting information, use the space below:

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Roechel Kujawa, roechel.kujawa@cms.hhs.gov or on 410-786-9111

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Appropriate Regional Office

VI. FUNDING

A. For TITLE XVIII Contractors, use only one of the following statements:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2007 operating budgets.

B. *For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC), use only one of the following statements:*

The contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the Statement of Work (SOW). The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts specified in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

Medicare Claims Processing Manual

Chapter 15 - Ambulance

Table of Contents *(Rev. 1185, 02-23-07)*

30.3 – Ambulance Fee Schedule – Medical Conditions List *and Instructions*

30.3 – Ambulance Fee Schedule – Medical Conditions List *and Instructions*

(Rev. 1185, Issued: 02-23-07, Effective: 04-01-07, Implementation: 04-02-07)

The Medical Conditions List is intended primarily as an educational guideline. It will help ambulance providers and suppliers to communicate the patient's condition to Medicare contractors, as reported by the dispatch center and as observed by the ambulance crew. Use of the medical conditions list information does not guarantee payment of the claim or payment for a certain level of service. Ambulance providers and suppliers must retain adequate documentation of dispatch instructions, patient's condition, and miles traveled, all of which must be available in the event the claim is selected for medical review (MR) by the Medicare contractor or other oversight authority. Medicare contractors will rely on medical record documentation to justify coverage. The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code or the medical conditions list information by themselves are not sufficient to justify coverage. All current Medicare ambulance policies remain in place.

The CMS issued the Medical Conditions List as guidance via a manual revision as a result of interest expressed in the ambulance industry for this tool. While the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes are not precluded from use on ambulance claims, they are currently not required (per Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)) on most ambulance claims, and these codes generally do not trigger a payment or a denial of a claim. Some carriers and fiscal intermediaries have Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) in place that cite ICD-9-CM that can be added to the claim to assist in documenting that the services are reasonable and necessary, but this is not common. Since ICD-9-CM codes are not required and are not consistently used, not all carriers or fiscal intermediaries edit on this field, and it is not possible to edit on the narrative field. The ICD-9-CM codes are generally not part of the edit process, although the Medical Conditions List is available for those who do find it helpful in justifying that services are reasonable and necessary.

The Medical Conditions List is set up with an initial column of primary ICD-9-CM codes, followed by an alternative column of ICD-9-CM codes. The primary ICD-9-CM code column contains general ICD-9-CM codes that fit the transport conditions as described in the subsequent columns. Ambulance crew or billing staff with limited knowledge of ICD-9-CM coding would be expected to choose the one or one of the two ICD-9-CM codes listed in this column to describe the appropriate ambulance transport and then place the ICD-9-CM code in the space on the claim form designated for an ICD-9-CM code. The option to include other information in the narrative field always exists and can be used whenever an ambulance provider or supplier believes that the information may be useful for claims processing purposes. If an ambulance crew or billing staff member has more comprehensive clinical knowledge, then that person may select an ICD-9-CM code from the alternative ICD-9-CM code column. These ICD-9-CM codes are more specific and detailed. An ICD-9-CM code does not need to be selected from both the primary column and the alternative column. However, in several instances in the alternative ICD-9-CM code column, there is a selection of codes and the word "PLUS." In these instances, the ambulance provider or supplier would select an ICD-9-CM code from the first part of the alternative listing (before the word "PLUS") and at least one other ICD-9-CM code from the

second part of the alternative listing (after the word “PLUS”). The ambulance claim form does provide space for the use of multiple ICD-9-CM codes. Please see the example below:

The ambulance arrives on the scene. A beneficiary is experiencing the specific abnormal vital sign of elevated blood pressure; however, the beneficiary does not normally suffer from hypertension (ICD-9-CM code 796.2 (from the alternative column on the Medical Conditions List)). In addition, the beneficiary is extremely dizzy (ICD-9-CM code 780.4 (fits the “PLUS any other code” requirement when using the alternative list for this condition (abnormal vital signs))). The ambulance crew can list these two ICD-9-CM codes on the claim form, or the general ICD-9-CM code for this condition (796.4 – Other Abnormal Clinical Findings) would work just as well. None of these ICD-9-CM codes will determine whether or not this claim will be paid; they will only assist the contractor in making a medical review determination provided all other Medicare ambulance coverage policies have been followed.

While the medical conditions/ICD-9-CM code list is intended to be comprehensive, there may be unusual circumstances that warrant the need for ambulance services using ICD-9-CM codes not on this list. During the medical review process contractors may accept other relevant information from the providers or suppliers that will build the appropriate case that justifies the need for ambulance transport for a patient condition not found on the list.

Because it is critical to accurately communicate the condition of the patient during the ambulance transport, most claims will contain only the ICD-9-CM code that most closely informs the Medicare contractor why the patient required the ambulance transport. This code is intended to correspond to the description of the patient’s symptoms and condition once the ambulance personnel are at the patient’s side. For example, if an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance responds to a condition on the medical conditions list that warrants an ALS-level response and the patient’s condition on-scene also corresponds to an ALS-level condition, the submitted claim need only include the code that most accurately reflects the on-scene condition of the patient as the reason for transport. (All claims are required to have HCPCS codes on them, and may have modifiers as well.) Similarly, if a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance responds to a condition on the medical conditions list that warrants a BLS-level response and the patient’s condition on-scene also corresponds to a BLS-level condition, the submitted claim need only include the code that most accurately reflects the on-scene condition of the patient as the reason for transport.

When a request for service is received by ambulance dispatch personnel for a condition that necessitates the skilled assessment of an advanced life support paramedic based upon the medical conditions list, an ALS-level ambulance would be appropriately sent to the scene. If upon arrival of the ambulance the actual condition encountered by the crew corresponds to a BLS-level situation, this claim would require two separate condition codes from the medical condition list to be processed correctly. The first code would correspond to the “reason for transport” or the on-scene condition of the patient. Because in this example, this code corresponds to a BLS condition, a second code that corresponds to the dispatch information would be necessary for inclusion on the claim in order to support payment at the ALS level. In these cases, when MR is performed, the Medicare contractor will analyze all claim information (including both codes) and other supplemental medical documentation to support the level of service billed on the claim.

Contractors may have (or may develop) individual local policies that indicate that some codes are not appropriate for payment in some circumstances. These continue to remain in effect.

Information on appropriate use of transportation indicators:

When a claim is submitted for payment, an ICD-9-CM code from the medical conditions list that best describes the patient's condition and the medical necessity for the transport may be chosen. In addition to this code, one of the transportation indicators below may be included on the claim to indicate why it was necessary for the patient to be transported in a particular way or circumstance. The provider or supplier will place the transportation indicator in the "narrative" field on the claim.

- **Air and Ground**
- **Transportation Indicator "C1":** Transportation indicator "C1" indicates an inter-facility transport (to a higher level of care) determined necessary by the originating facility based upon EMTALA regulations and guidelines. The patient's condition should also be reported on the claim with a code selected from either the emergency or non-emergency category on the list.
- **Transportation Indicator "C2":** Transportation indicator "C2" indicates a patient is being transported from one facility to another because a service or therapy required to treat the patient's condition is not available at the originating facility. The patient's condition should also be reported on the claim with a code selected from either the emergency or non-emergency category on the list. In addition, the information about what service the patient requires that was not available should be included in the narrative field of the claim.
- **Transportation Indicator "C3":** Transportation indicator "C3" may be included on claims as a secondary code where a response was made to a major incident or mechanism of injury. All such responses – regardless of the type of patient or patients found once on scene – are appropriately Advanced Level Service responses. A code that describes the patient's condition found on scene should also be included on the claim, but use of this modifier is intended to indicate that the highest level of service available response was medically justified. Some examples of these types of responses would include patient(s) trapped in machinery, explosions, a building fire with persons reported inside, major incidents involving aircraft, buses, subways, trains, watercraft and victims entrapped in vehicles.
- **Transportation Indicator "C4":** Transportation indicator "C4" indicates that an ambulance provided a medically necessary transport, but the number of miles on the claim form appear to be excessive. This should be used only if the facility is on divert status or a particular service is not available at the time of transport only. The provider or supplier must have documentation on file clearly showing why the beneficiary was not transported to the nearest facility and may include this information in the narrative field.
- **Ground Only**

- **Transportation Indicator “C5”:** Transportation indicator “C5” has been added for situations where a patient with an ALS-level condition is encountered, treated and transported by a BLS-level ambulance with no ALS level involvement whatsoever. This situation would occur when ALS resources are not available to respond to the patient encounter for any number of reasons, but the ambulance service is informing you that although the patient transported had an ALS-level condition, the actual service rendered was through a BLS-level ambulance in a situation where an ALS-level ambulance was not available.
- For example, a BLS ambulance is dispatched at the emergency level to pick up a 76-year-old beneficiary who has undergone cataract surgery at the Eye Surgery Center. The patient is weak and dizzy with a history of high blood pressure, myocardial infarction, and insulin-dependent diabetes melitus. Therefore, the on-scene ICD-9-CM equivalent of the medical condition is 780.02 (unconscious, fainting, syncope, near syncope, weakness, or dizziness – ALS Emergency). In this case, the ICD-9-CM code 780.02 would be entered on the ambulance claim form as well as transportation indicator C5 to provide the further information that the BLS ambulance transported a patient with an ALS-level condition, but there was no intervention by an ALS service. This claim would be paid at the BLS level.
- **Transportation Indicator “C6”:** Transportation indicator “C6” has been added for situations when an ALS-level ambulance would always be the appropriate resource chosen based upon medical dispatch protocols to respond to a request for service. If once on scene, the crew determines that the patient requiring transport has a BLS-level condition, this transportation indicator should be included on the claim to indicate why the ALS-level response was indicated based upon the information obtained in the operation’s dispatch center. Claims including this transportation indicator should contain two primary codes. The first condition will indicate the BLS-level condition corresponding to the patient’s condition found on-scene and during the transport. The second condition will indicate the ALS-level condition corresponding to the information at the time of dispatch that indicated the need for an ALS-level response based upon medically appropriate dispatch protocols.
- **Transportation Indicator C7-** Transportation indicator “C7” is for those circumstances where IV medications were required en route. C7 is appropriately used for patients requiring ALS level transport in a non-emergent situation primarily because the patient requires monitoring of ongoing medications administered intravenously. Does not apply to self-administered medications. Does not include administration of crystalloid intravenous fluids (i.e., Normal Saline, Lactate Ringers, 5% Dextrose in Water, etc.). The patient’s condition should also be reported on the claim with a code selected from the list.
- **Air Only**
- All “transportation indicators” imply a clinical benefit to the time saved with transporting a patient by an air ambulance versus a ground or water ambulance.

- D1 Long Distance - patient's condition requires rapid transportation over a long distance.

D2 Under rare and exceptional circumstances, traffic patterns preclude ground transport at the time the response is required.

D3 Time to get to the closest appropriate hospital due to the patient's condition precludes transport by ground ambulance. Unstable patient with need to minimize out-of-hospital time to maximize clinical benefits to the patient.

D4 Pick up point not accessible by ground transportation.

Ambulance Fee Schedule - Medical Conditions List

(Rev. 1185, Issued: 02-23-07, Effective: 04-01-07, Implementation: 04-02-07)

ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all- inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic						
535.50	458.9, 780.2, 787.01, 787.02, 787.03, 789.01, 789.02, 789.03, 789.04, 789.05, 789.06, 789.07, 789.09, 789.60 through 789.69, or 789.40 through 789.49 PLUS any other code from 780 through 799 except 793, 794, and 795.	Severe abdominal pain	With other signs or symptoms	ALS	Nausea, vomiting, fainting, pulsatile mass, distention, rigid, tenderness on exam, guarding.	A0427/A0433

789.00	726.2, 789.01, 789.02, 789.03, 789.04, 789.05, 789.06, 789.07, or 789.09.	Abdominal pain	Without other signs or symptoms	BLS		A0429
427.9	426.0, 426.3, 426.4, 426.6, 426.11, 426.13, 426.50, 426.53, 427.0, 427.1, 427.2, 427.31, 427.32, 427.41, 427.42, 427.5, 427.60, 427.61, 427.69, 427.81, 427.89, 785.0, 785.50, 785.51, 785.52, or 785.59.	Abnormal cardiac rhythm/Cardiac dysrhythmia.	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Bradycardia, junctional and ventricular blocks,non- sinus tachycardias, PVC's >6, bi and trigeminy, ventricular tachycardia , ventricular fibrillation, atrial flutter, PEA, asystole, AICD/AED Fired	A0427/A0433
780.8	782.5 or 782.6	Abnormal skin signs		ALS	Diaphoresis, cyanosis, delayed cap refill, poor turgor, mottled.	A0427/A0433

796.4	458.9, 780.6, 785.9, 796.2, or 796.3 PLUS any other code from 780 through 799.	Abnormal vital signs (includes abnormal pulse oximetry).	With or without symptoms.	ALS		A0427/A0433
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
995.0	995.1, 995.2, 995.3, 995.4, 995.60, 995.61, 995.62, 995.63, 995.64, 995.65, 995.66, 995.67, 995.68, 995.69 or 995.7.	Allergic reaction	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Other emergency conditions, rapid progression of symptoms, prior hx. Of anaphylaxis, wheezing, difficulty swallowing.	A0427/A0433

692.9	692.0, 692.1, 692.2, 692.3, 692.4, 692.5, 692.6, 692.70, 692.71, 692.72, 692.73, 692.74, 692.75, 692.76, 692.77, 692.79, 692.81, 692.82, 692.83, 692.89, 692.9, 693.0, 693.1, 693.8, 693.9, 695.9, 698.9, 708.9, 782.1.	Allergic reaction	Other	BLS	Hives, itching, rash, slow onset, local swelling, redness, erythema.	A0429
790.21	790.22, 250.02, or 250.03.	Blood glucose	Abnormal <80 or >250, with symptoms.	ALS	Altered mental status, vomiting, signs of dehydration.	A0427/A0433
799.1	786.02, 786.03, 786.04, or 786.09.	Respiratory arrest		ALS	Apnea, hypoventilation requiring ventilatory assistance and airway management.	A0427/A0433
786.05		Difficulty breathing		ALS		A0427/A0433

427.5		Cardiac arrest— Resuscitation in progress		ALS		A0427/A0433
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all- inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
786.50	786.51, 786.52, or 786.59.	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.	A0427/A0433
784.99	933.0 or 933.1.	Choking episode	Airway obstructed or partially obstructed	ALS		A0427/A0433
991.6		Cold exposure	Potentially life or limb threatening	ALS	Temperature< 95F, deep frost bite, other emergency conditions.	A0427/A0433

991.9	991.0, 991.1, 991.2, 991.3, or 991.4.	Cold exposure	With symptoms	BLS	Shivering, superficial frost bite, and other emergency conditions.	A0429
780.97	780.02, 780.03, or 780.09.	Altered level of consciousness (nontraumatic)		ALS	Acute condition with Glasgow Coma Scale<15.	A0427/A0433
780.39	345.00, 345.01, 345.2, 345.3, 345.10, 345.11, 345.40, 345.41, 345.50, 345.51, 345.60, 345.61, 345.70, 345.71, 345.80, 345.81, 345.90, 345.91, or 780.31.	Convulsions, Seizures	Seizing, immediate post-seizure, postictal, or at risk of seizure & requires medical monitoring/observation.	ALS		A0427/A0433
379.90	368.11, 368.12, or 379.91.	Eye symptoms, non-traumatic	Acute vision loss and/or severe pain	BLS		A0429
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all- inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
437.9	784.0 PLUS 781.0, 781.1, 781.2, 781.3, 781.4, or	Non traumatic headache	With neurologic distress conditions or sudden severe onset	ALS		A0427/A0433

	781.8.					
785.1		Cardiac Symptoms other than chest pain.	Palpitations, skipped beats	ALS		A0427/A0433
536.2	787.01, 787.02, 787.03, 780.79, 786.8, or 786.52.	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.	A0427/A0433
992.5	992.0, 992.1, 992.3, 992.4, or 992.5.	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.	A0427/A0433
992.2	992.6, 992.7, 992.8, or 992.9.	Heat exposure	With symptoms	BLS	Muscle cramps, profuse sweating, fatigue.	A0429

459.0	569.3, 578.0, 578.1, 578.9, 596.7, 596.8, 623.8, 626.9, 637.1, 634.1, 666.00, 666.02, 666.04, 666.10, 666.12, 666.14, 666.20, 666.22, 666.24, 674.30, 674.32, 674.34, 786.3, 784.7, or 998.11.	Hemorrhage	Severe (quantity) and potentially life-threatening	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant signs of shock or other emergency conditions. Severe, active vaginal, rectal bleeding, hematemesis, hemoptysis, epistaxis, active post-surgical bleeding.	A0427/A0433
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
038.9	136.9, any other condition in the 001 through 139 code range which would require isolation.	Infectious diseases requiring isolation procedures / public health risk.		BLS		A0429

987.9	981, 982.0, 982.1, 982.2, 982.3, 982.4, 982.8, 983.0, 983.1, 983.2, 983.9, 984.0, 984.1, 984.8, 984.9, 985.0, 985.1, 985.2, 985.3, 985.4, 985.5, 985.6, 985.8, 985.9, 986, 987.0, 987.1, 987.2, 987.3, 987.4, 987.5, 987.6, 987.7, 987.8, 989.1, 989.2, 989.3, 989.4, 989.6, 989.7, 989.9, or 990.	Hazmat Exposure		ALS	Toxic fume or liquid exposure via inhalation, absorption, oral, radiation, smoke inhalation.	A0427/A0433
996.00	996.01, 996.02, 996.04, 996.09, 996.1, or 996.2.	Medical Device Failure	Life or limb threatening malfunction, failure, or complication.	ALS	Malfunction of ventilator, internal pacemaker, internal defibrillator, implanted drug delivery device.	A0427/A0433
996.30	996.31, 996.40, 996.41, 996.42, 996.43, 996.44, 996.45, 996.46, 996.47, 996.49, or 996.59.	Medical Device Failure	Health maintenance device failures that cannot be resolved on location.	BLS	Oxygen System supply malfunction, orthopedic device failure.	A0429

436	291.3, 293.82, 298.9, 344.9, 368.16, 369.9, 780.09, 780.4, 781.0, 781.2, 781.94, 781.99, 782.0, 784.3, 784.5, or 787.2.	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		A0427/A0433
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all- inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
780.96		Pain, severe not otherwise specified in this list.	Acute onset, unable to ambulate or sit due to intensity of pain.	ALS	Pain is the reason for the transport. Use severity scale (7–10 for severe pain) or patient receiving pharmacologic intervention	A0427/A0433
724.5	724.2 or 785.9.	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.	A0427/A0433

724.9	724.2, 724.5, 847.1, or 847.2.	Back pain—non-traumatic (T and/or LS).	Sudden onset of new neurologic symptoms	ALS	Neurologic distress list.	A0427/A0433
977.9	Any code from 960 through 979.	Poisons, ingested, injected, inhaled, absorbed.	Adverse drug reaction, poison exposure by inhalation, injection or absorption.	ALS		A0427/A0433
305.0	303.00, 303.01, 303.02, 303.03, or any code from 960 through 979.	Alcohol intoxication or drug overdose (suspected).	Unable to care for self and unable to ambulate. No airway compromise.	BLS		A0429
977.3		Severe alcohol intoxication.	Airway may or may not be at risk. Pharmacological intervention or cardiac monitoring may be needed. Decreased level of consciousness resulting or potentially resulting in airway compromise.	ALS		A0427/A0433
998.9	674.10, 674.12, 674.14, 674.20, 674.22, 674.24, 997.69, 998.31, 998.32, or 998.83.	Post—operative procedure complications.	Major wound dehiscence, evisceration, or requires special handling for transport.	BLS	Non-life threatening.	A0429
650	Any code from 660 through 669 or from 630 through 767.	Pregnancy complication/ Childbirth/Labor		ALS		A0427/A0433

292.9	291.0, 291.3, 291.81, 292.0, 292.81, 292.82, 292.83, 292.84, or 292.89.	Psychiatric/Behavioral	Abnormal mental status; drug withdrawal.	ALS	Disoriented, DT's, withdrawal symptoms	A0427/A0433
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
298.9	300.9	Psychiatric/Behavioral	Threat to self or others, acute episode or exacerbation of paranoia, or disruptive behavior	BLS	Suicidal, homicidal, or violent.	A0429
036.9	780.6 PLUS either 784.0 or 723.5.	Sick Person - Fever	Fever with associated symptoms (headache, stiff neck, etc.). Neurological changes.	BLS	Suspected spinal meningitis.	A0429
787.01	787.02, 787.03, or 787.91.	Severe dehydration	Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, severe and incapacitating resulting in severe side effects of dehydration.	ALS		A0427/A0433
780.02	780.2 or 780.4	Unconscious, fainting, syncope, near syncope, weakness, or dizziness.	Transient unconscious episode or found unconscious. Acute episode or exacerbation.	ALS		A0427/A0433
Emergency Conditions—Trauma						

959.8	800.00 through 804.99, 807.4, 807.6, 808.8, 808.9, 812.00 through 812.59, 813.00 through 813.93, 813.93, 820.00 through 821.39, 823.00 through 823.92, 851.00 through 866.13, 870.0 through 879.9, 880.00 through 887.7, or 890.0 through 897.7.	Major trauma	As defined by ACS Field Triage Decision Scheme. 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.	ALS	See "Condition Specific" Column	A0427/A0433
518.5		Other trauma	Need to monitor or maintain airway	ALS	Decreased LOC, bleeding into airway, trauma to head, face or neck.	A0427/A0433
958.2	870.0 through 879.9, 880.00 through 887.7, 890.0 through 897.7, or 900.00 through	Other trauma	Major bleeding	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant bleeding.	A0427/A0433

	904.9.					
829.0	805.00, 810.00 through 819.1, or 820.00 through 829.1.	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.	A0429
ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
880.00	880.00 through 887.7 or 890.0 through 897.7.	Other trauma	Penetrating extremity injuries	BLS	Isolated with bleeding stopped and good CSM.	A0429
886.0 or 895.0	886.1 or 895.1.	Other trauma	Amputation—digits	BLS		A0429
887.4 or 897.4	887.0, 887.1, 887.2, 887.3, 887.6, 887.7, 897.0, 897.1, 897.2, 897.3, 897.5, 897.6, or 897.7.	Other trauma	Amputation—all other	ALS		A0427/A0433

869.0 or 869.1	511.8, 512.8, 860.2, 860.3, 860.4, 860.5, 873.8, 873.9, or 959.01.	Other trauma	Suspected internal, head, chest, or abdominal injuries.	ALS	Signs of closed head injury, open head injury, pneumothorax, hemothorax, abdominal bruising, positive abdominal signs on exam, internal bleeding criteria, evisceration.	A0427/A0433
949.3	941.30 through 941.39, 942.30 through 942.39, 943.30 through 943.39, 944.30 through 944.38, 945.30 through 945.39, or 949.3.	Burns	Major—per American Burn Association (ABA)	ALS	Partial thickness burns > 10% total body surface area (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	A0427/A0433

ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
949.2	941.20 through 941.29, 942.20 through 942.29, 943.20 through 943.29, 944.20 through 944.28, 945.20 through 945.29, or 949.2.	Burns	Minor—per ABA	BLS	Other burns than listed above.	A0429
989.5		Animal bites, stings, envenomation	Potentially life or limb-threatening	ALS	Symptoms of specific envenomation, significant face, neck, trunk, and extremity involvement; other emergency conditions.	A0427/A0433
879.8	Any code from 870.0 through 897.7.	Animal bites/sting/envenomation	Other	BLS	Local pain and swelling or special handling considerations (not related to obesity) and patient monitoring required.	A0429

994.0		Lightning		ALS		A0427/A0433
994.8		Electrocution		ALS		A0427/A0433
994.1		Near Drowning	Airway compromised during near drowning event.	ALS		A0427/A0433
921.9	870.0 through 870.9, 871.0, 871.1, 871.2, 871.3, 871.4, 871.5, 871.6, 871.7, 871.9, or 921.0 through 921.9.	Eye injuries	Acute vision loss or blurring, severe pain or chemical exposure, penetrating, severe lid lacerations.	BLS		A0429
995.83	995.53 or V71.5 PLUS any code from 925.1 through 929.9, 930.0 through 939.9, 958.0 through 958.8, or 959.01 through 959.9.	Sexual assault	With major injuries	ALS	Reference Codes 959.8, 958.2, 869.0/869.1	A0427/A0433
ICD9 Primary Code		Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and examples (not all- inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk

995.80	995.53 or V71.5 PLUS any code from 910.0 through 919.9, 920 through 924.9, or 959.01 through 959.9.	Sexual assault	With minor or no injuries	BLS		A0429
Non-Emergency						
428.9		Cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring required en route.		ALS	Expectation monitoring is needed before and after transport.	A0426
518.81 or 518.89	V46.11 or V46.12.	Advanced airway management.		ALS	Ventilator dependent, apnea monitor, possible intubation needed, deep suctioning.	A0426, A0434
293.0		Chemical restraint.		ALS		A0426
496	491.20, 491.21, 492.0 through 492.8, 493.20, 493.21, 493.22, 494.0, or 494.1.	Suctioning required en route, need for titrated O2 therapy or IV fluid management.		BLS	Per transfer instructions.	A0428

786.09		Airway control/positioning required en route.		BLS	Per transfer instructions.	A0428
492.8	491.20, 491.21, 492.0 through 492.8, 493.20, 493.21, 493.22, 494.0, or 494.1.	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.	A0428
ICD9 Primary Code		Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
298.9	Add 295.0 through 295.9 with 5th digits of 0, 1, 3, or 4, 296.00 or 299.90.	Patient Safety: Danger to self or others - in restraints.		BLS	Refer to definition in 42 C.F.R Sec. 482.13(e).	A0428
293.1		Patient Safety: Danger to self or others - monitoring.		BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires monitoring for safety.	A0428

298.8	Add 295.0 through 295.9 with 5th digits of 0, 1, 3, or 4, 296.00 or 299.90.	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. Refer to 42 C.F.R. Sec. 482.13(f)(2) for definition	A0428
781.3	Add 295.0 through 295.9 with 5th digits of 0, 1, 3, or 4, 296.00 or 299.90.	Patient Safety: Risk of falling off wheelchair or stretcher while in motion (not related to obesity).		BLS	Patient's physical condition is such that patient risks injury during vehicle movement despite restraints. Indirect indicators include MDS criteria.	A0428
ICD9 Primary Code		Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and examples (not all- inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk

041.9		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.	A0428
907.2		Special handling en route to reduce pain - orthopedic device.		BLS	Backboard, halotraction, use of pins and traction, etc. Pain may be present.	A0428

719.45 or 719.49	718.40, 718.45, 718.49, or 907.2.	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	A0428
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Transportation Indicators

Transportation Indicators Air and Ground*	Transport Category	Transportation Indicator Description		Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
C1	Interfacility Transport	EMTALA-certified inter-facility transfer to a higher level of care.	Beneficiary requires higher level of care.	BLS, ALS, SCT, FW, RW	Excludes patient-requested EMTALA transfer.	A0428, A0429, A0426, A0427, A0433, A0434

C2	Interfacility Transport	Service not available at originating facility, and must meet one or more emergency or non-emergency conditions.		BLS, ALS, SCT, FW, RW		A0428, A0429, A0426, A0427, A0433, A0434
C3	Emergency Trauma Dispatch Condition Code	Major Incident or Mechanism of Injury	Major Incident-This transportation indicator is to be used ONLY as a secondary code when the on-scene encounter is a BLS-level patient.	ALS	Trapped in machinery, close proximity to explosion, building fire with persons reported inside, major incident involving aircraft, bus, subway, metro, train and watercraft. Victim entrapped in vehicle.	A0427/A0433
C4	Medically necessary transport but not to the nearest facility.	BLS or ALS Response	Indicates to Carrier/Intermediary that an ambulance provided a medically necessary transport, but that the number of miles on the Medicare claim form may be excessive.	BLS/ALS	This should occur if the facility is on divert status or the particular service is not available at the time of transport only. In these instances the ambulance units should clearly document why the beneficiary was not transported to the nearest facility.	Based on transport level.
C5	BLS Transport of ALS-level Patient	ALS-Level Condition treated and transport by a BLS-level ambulance	This transportation indicator is used for ALL situations where a BLS-level ambulance treats and transports a patient that presents an ALS-level condition. No ALS-level assessment or intervention occurs at all during the patient encounter.	BLS		A0429

Transport Description Modifiers Air and Ground*	Transport Category	Transportation Indicator Description		Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
C6	ALS-level Response to BLS-level Patient	ALS Response Required based upon appropriate Dispatch Protocols - BLS-level patient transport	Indicates to Carrier/Intermediary that an ALS-level ambulance responded appropriately based upon the information received at the time the call was received in dispatch and after a clinically appropriate ALS-assessment was performed on scene, it was determined that the condition of the patient was at a BLS level. These claims, properly documented, should be reimbursed at an ALS-1 level based upon coverage guidelines under the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule.	ALS		A0427
C7		IV meds required en route.	This transportation indicator is used for patients that require an ALS level transport in a non-emergent situation primarily because the patient requires monitoring of ongoing medications administered intravenously. Does not apply to self-administered medications. Does not include administration of crystalloid intravenous fluids (i.e., Normal Saline, Lactate Ringers, 5% Dextrose in Water, etc.). The patient's condition should also be reported on the claim with a code selected from the list.	ALS	Does not apply to self-administered IV medications.	A0426
Air Ambulance Transportation Indicators						

Air Ambulance Transportation Indicators		Transportation Indicator Description	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
D1		Long Distance-patient's condition requires rapid transportation over a long distance	FW, RW	If the patient's condition warrants only.	A0430, A0431
D2		Under rare and exceptional circumstances, traffic patterns preclude ground transport at the time the response is required.	FW, RW		A0430, A0431
D3		Time to get to the closest appropriate hospital due to the patient's condition precludes transport by ground ambulance. Unstable patient with need to minimize out-of-hospital time to maximize clinical benefits for the patient.	FW, RW		A0430, A0431
D4		Pick-up point not accessible by ground ambulance	FW, RW		A0430, A0431

Note: HCPCS Crosswalk to ALS1E (A0427) and ALS2 (A0433) would ultimately be determined by the number and type of ALS level services provided during transport. All medical condition codes can be crosswalked to fixed wing and rotor wing HCPCS provided the air ambulance service has documented the medical necessity for air ambulance service versus ground or water ambulance. As a result, codes A0430 (Fixed Wing) and A0431 (Rotor Wing) can be included in Column 7 for each condition listed.

