



News Flash – The “Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN)” booklet, which provides information on when providers should use an ABN, ABN policies, how to properly complete an ABN and ABN modifiers, is now available in hardcopy from the Medicare Learning Network®. To order your copy, free of charge, please visit the MLN Products page at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> on the internet. Scroll down to the “Related Links Inside CMS” section and choose “MLN Product Ordering Page”. To view the online version, please visit http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/ABN_Booklet_ICN006266.pdf on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7161

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7161

Related CR Release Date: October 22, 2010

Effective Date: January 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R133BP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2011

Note: This article was updated on December 11, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Air Ambulance Services

Provider Types Affected

Air ambulance providers submitting claims to Fiscal Intermediaries (FI), carriers, and Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) are affected.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7161, which updates Chapter 10, Section 10.4.6 of the Medicare Benefit Policy manual to better describe special payment limitations for air ambulance services. No new policy is announced by CR 7161. Please ensure that your staffs are aware of this clarification.

Background

Section 10.4.6, Special Payment Limitations, of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual has been updated and states that:

Disclaimer

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"If a determination is made *to order* transport by air ambulance, but ground ambulance service would have sufficed, payment for the air ambulance service is based on the amount payable for ground transport.

If the air transport was medically appropriate (that is, ground transportation was contraindicated, and the beneficiary required air transport to a hospital), but the beneficiary could have been treated at a nearer hospital than the one to which they were transported, the air transport payment is limited to the rate for the distance from the point of pickup to that nearer hospital."

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 7161, issued to your FI, carrier, and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R133BP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, carrier, or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Vaccination is the Best Protection Against the Flu. This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu. The risks for complications, hospitalizations and deaths from the flu are higher among individuals aged 65 years and older. Medicare pays for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, vaccination is particularly important for health care workers, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu. **Remember** – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html> on the CMS website.

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