

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-02 Medicare Benefit Policy	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 187	Date: May 1, 2014
	Change Request 8706

SUBJECT: Update to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual to Restore Missing Air Ambulance Definitions

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This Change Request (CR) restores chapter 10, section 30.1.2, which was inadvertently omitted from the current version of the Internet Only Manual (IOM).

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 4, 2014

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

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: August 4, 2014

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

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
R	10/Table of Contents
N	10/30.1.2/Air Ambulance Services

III. FUNDING:

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC statement of Work. The contractor is not obliged to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted 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.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

**Business Requirements
Manual Instruction**

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility				
		A/B MAC			D M E	C E D I
		A	B	H H H	M A C	
	None					

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Felicia Rowe, felicia.rowe@cms.hhs.gov, Amy Gruber, amy.gruber@cms.hhs.gov

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VI. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

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ATTACHMENTS: 0

Medicare Benefit Policy Manual

Chapter 10 - Ambulance Services

Table of Contents
(Rev. 187, 05-01-14)

30.1.2 - Air Ambulance Services

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(Rev. 187, Issued: 05-01-14; Effective: 08-04-14; Implementation: 08-04-14)

There are two categories of air ambulance services: fixed wing (airplane) and rotary wing (helicopter) aircraft. The higher operational costs of the two types of aircraft are recognized with two distinct payment amounts for air ambulance mileage. The air ambulance mileage rate is calculated per actual loaded (patient onboard) miles flown and is expressed in statute miles (not nautical miles).

1. Fixed Wing Air Ambulance (FW)

Fixed wing air ambulance is furnished when the beneficiary's medical condition is such that transport by ground ambulance, in whole or in part, is not appropriate. Generally, transport by fixed wing air ambulance may be necessary because the beneficiary's condition requires rapid transport to a treatment facility, and either great distances or other obstacles, e.g., heavy traffic, preclude such rapid delivery to the nearest appropriate facility. Transport by fixed wing air ambulance may also be necessary because the beneficiary is inaccessible by a ground or water ambulance vehicle.

2. Rotary Wing Air Ambulance (RW)

Rotary wing air ambulance is furnished when the beneficiary's medical condition is such that transport by ground ambulance, in whole or in part, is not appropriate. Generally, transport by rotary wing air ambulance may be necessary because the beneficiary's condition requires rapid transport to a treatment facility, and either great distances or other obstacles, e.g., heavy traffic, preclude such rapid delivery to the nearest appropriate facility. Transport by rotary wing air ambulance may also be necessary because the beneficiary is inaccessible by a ground or water ambulance vehicle.