

## **Origin and Destination Codes Specific to Ambulance Service Claims and Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model claims**

For ambulance service claims, institutional-based providers and suppliers must report origin and destination codes for each ambulance trip provided in HCPCS/Rates. Origin and destination codes used for ambulance services are created by combining two alpha characters. Each alpha character, with the exception of “X”, represents an origin code or a destination code. The pair of alpha codes creates one code to be reported in modifier field. The first position alpha code equals origin; the second position alpha code equals destination. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) maintains the list of valid codes.

Origin and destination codes and their descriptions are as follows:

- D = Diagnostic or therapeutic site other than P or H when these are used as origin codes;
- E = Residential, domiciliary, custodial facility (other than 1819 facility);
- G = Hospital based ESRD facility;
- H = Hospital;
- I = Site of transfer (e.g. airport or helicopter pad) between modes of ambulance transport;
- J = Freestanding ESRD facility;
- N = Skilled nursing facility;
- P = Physician’s office;
- R = Residence;
- S = Scene of accident or acute event;
- X = Intermediate stop at physician’s office on way to hospital (destination code only)

While combinations of these items may duplicate other HCPCS modifiers, when billed with an ambulance transportation code, the reported modifiers can only indicate origin/destination.

Beginning with start date of the ET3 Model on January 1, 2021 (and only for as long as the CMS ET3 Model is in effect), CMS is allowing the following alpha character modifiers to be used in the “destination” position of the origin/destination modifier combination on ET3 Model ambulance claims to indicate 1) an allowable alternative destination or 2) in the case of the beneficiary being treated in place (no transport of the beneficiary occurs):

- C = Community Mental Health Center;
- F = Federally Qualified Health Center;
- O = Physician’s Office;
- U = Urgent Care Facility;
- W = Treatment in Place (in person or via telehealth)

NOTE: These new destination codes are to be used on ET3 Model ambulance claims only and shall NOT be used, in any circumstance, in the origin code position of an ambulance service line HCPCS origin/destination modifier combination. These codes are only to be used by selected ET3 Model Participants.

For additional information about the CMS ET3 payment model initiative, please visit:

<https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/et3/>