

## **Medicare:**

Payments are based on a fee schedule.

Medicare defines emergency as "the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of such severity (including severe pain) that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in any of the following:

- 1. Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy; or
- 2. Serious impairment of bodily functions; or
- 3. Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Conditions not meeting the above definition are considered "Non-Emergencies".

Nonemergency ambulance services are covered by Medicare only if medical necessity is met and transportation by other means is contraindicated. One factor to consider in determining medical necessity is: does one of the following criteria exist-

- a. The beneficiary is unable to get up from bed without assistance.
- b. The beneficiary is unable to ambulate
- c. The beneficiary is unable to sit in a chair or wheelchair.

Provided medical necessity is met, and proper documentation is obtained prior to services being rendered Medicare covers nonemergency ambulance service for a higher level of care, to a long term care facility or a person's place of residence.

Medicare does not pay for the following services:

- 1. To a destination that is for the patients or family's convenience including for services of a preferred physician.
- 2. Generally to a physician's office is not covered.
- 3. Mileage beyond the nearest appropriate facility.
- 4. Wheelchair van, car, or taxi are not covered by Medicare.

## **Medicaid**

Medicaid covers certain services provided the prior approval process is followed.

Trans Am may be contacted directly for the following medical transportation services:

- 1. Emergency Ambulance service
- 2. Emergency and non- emergency ambulance service for dually eligible Medicare / Medicaid patients provided the above Medicare criteria is met.
- 3. Nonemergency ambulance and after hours wheel chair or livery service for Cattaraugus Co Medicaid recipients only.

Nonemergency ambulance with no Medicare coverage, wheel chair and livery services must be arranged ahead of time and vary according to the County responsible for payment. Coordinators by County are as follows:

- a. Allegany County - Medical Answering Service phone 1-866-271-0564
- b. Cattaraugus County - Medical Answering Service phone 1-866-371-4751
- c. Chauttaqua County - Medical Answering Service phone 1-855-733-9405
- d. Erie - DSS phone 1-716-274-6606
- e. Wyoming County - Medical Answering Service phone 1-855-733-9403
- Click here for more information on [Medical Answering Service](#)

Blue Cross / Blue Shield and Community Blue / Independent Health / North American / RMSCO / Univera

Most insurances follow the same guidelines as Medicare for ambulance coverage.

There is a copay and deductible on some blue policies.

Wheelchair and livery service is not a covered benefit.