



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY
1100 E. William Street, Suite 101
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(775) 684-3600

MICHAEL J. WILLDEN
Director

LAURIE SQUARTSOFF
Administrator

March 5, 2013

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
President
P.O. Box 457
Ft. McDermitt, NV 89421

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with established consultation guidelines, the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) is notifying Nevada tribes of the following proposed change in policies. The Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Chapter 1900, non-emergency transportation policy will be revised with the subsequent additions and clarifications:

- Reimbursable travel expenses were previously based on DHCFP's policy. This has been changed to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rates for meals and lodging. Mileage will continue to be reimbursed at the current Internal Revenue Services' (IRS) rate for medical transportation costs. Further, the policy explains that the recipient and any escort(s) are entitled to three (3) meals a day if in travel status during identified meal times as expressed in the DHCFP Administrative Manual: before 6am for breakfast; between 10 am and 2 pm for lunch; and after 7 pm for dinner. Lodging will be provided if the recipient is in travel status in excess of eleven hours;
- If the recipient must reserve a hotel room to obtain medical services and due to specific, unforeseen circumstances must cancel the hotel room, upon approval of the DHCFP, the non-emergency transportation (NET) broker will reimburse the recipient for costs incurred; recipients must contact the NET vendor to cancel paratransit or commercial rides;
- Clarified the eligibility for transportation services of live organ donors (regardless of their Medicaid status), foster children, adopted children; recipients that have a legally responsible individual (LRI) that is unwilling or unable to provide transportation; and at any time, Nevada Check Up (NCU) recipients may also become eligible for NET;
- Children travelling to medical appointments may be accompanied by two (2) escorts if under 12 months of age; previously, the age was three (3) months;
- Recipients that are being discharged from a medical facility will be provided with transport within 4 hours;
- IHS' representatives may provide NET services to eligible recipients, in private vehicles. The representative may seek mileage reimbursement from the NET broker at double the IRS mileage rate for medical transportation costs;

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- NET provides stretcher transportation and transportation services to pharmacies;
- Policy has been revised to state that assessments will not be provided by the Medicaid District Office but by the NET broker and regional paratransit agencies. The NET broker will provide transportation to the paratransit assessment, the recipient's doctor to obtain documentation to determine appropriate transport level, and/or to the State Fair Hearing process at the level of service requested by the recipient;
- 'Appropriate' nearest provider was clarified to include the doctor that has an existing relationship with the recipient and is within a reasonable distance. The DHCFP will assist the NET broker in making these decisions ;
- If the recipient has not been authorized for NET and has been denied for paratransit services, the broker will, within 48 hours, mail the Medicaid recipient the information on the appeals process for a State Fair Hearing;
- Multiple trips a month may be authorized for NET services, but no more than five (5) trips may be authorized at one time; the NET broker will assist the recipient if given less than five (5) days notice of a need for NET, but cannot guarantee travel services will be available; and
- Emergency transportation providers must submit appropriate documentation to DHCFP to register as a provider and submit claims utilizing the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) billing codes and electronic data interchange standards, per CMS.

If you would like a consultation regarding this new policy, please contact Jon Kirwan at (775) 684-3716 who will schedule a meeting. We would appreciate a reply whether or not you would like this consultation, however if we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter we will consider that as an indication that no consultation is requested.

Sincerely,



Laurie Squartsoff
Administrator

Cc: Elizabeth Aiello, Deputy Administrator
Coleen Lawrence, Chief, Program Services
John Whaley, Chief, Business Lines
Jennifer White, SPSS III, Business Lines
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