



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMHOffice of Health Services
Medical Care ProgramsMaryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TRANSPORTATION GRANTS TRANSMITTAL NO. 6
October 8, 2004**

TO: Transportation Grants Managers

FROM: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

SUBJECT: Ambulance and Emergency Transports

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Recently, questions have arisen regarding the use of Transportation Grant funds to transport recipients by ambulance who may be appropriately transported by less costly means. Questions have also been raised about the Grant's role in funding transportation for hospital emergency services. The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the Maryland Medicaid Program's regulations and policies regarding Grant funding of ambulance and emergency transports.

The State regulations governing the Medicaid Transportation Grant Program limit transportation by ambulance to those individuals who must be transported in a prone position (COMAR 10.09.19.05.P). Those individuals who can be safely transported via sedan, van, or wheelchair van should not be transported by ambulance, regardless of the origination and/or destination points (e.g., between nursing facilities and hospitals). The least costly appropriate mode of transportation should always be used.

Additionally, the Grant does not cover emergency transportation services, whether by ambulance or other mode. The regulations define "emergency services" as "services provided in hospital emergency facilities after the onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by symptoms of sufficient severity that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected by a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of health and medicine, to result in:

- (a) Placing health in jeopardy;
- (b) Serious impairment to bodily functions;
- (c) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or
- (d) Development or continuance of severe pain. " (COMAR 10.09.19.01.B(05))



Callers requesting immediate transportation under these conditions should be directed to call "911" to request emergency transport. Please note that while the Program does not cover emergency transportation services through the Grant, it does directly reimburse public and/or volunteer emergency medical transport services for these trips under COMAR 10.09.31. Please also note that transportation between hospitals to receive procedures and/or treatments that are not available at the sending hospital is not considered an emergency transport.

Any questions regarding this transmittal may be directed to the Staff Specialist for Transportation at 410-767-1739.