



MEDICARE PART B

August 24, 2015

Dear Healthcare Provider/Facility:

The Medicare Fee-For-Service Program will begin a new prior authorization program later this year in your state for repetitive scheduled non-emergent ambulance transportation. Ambulance suppliers must acquire and submit medical records to receive prior authorization. **As a physician, practitioner or other healthcare provider for a beneficiary who must be transported by ambulance, you are required to provide certain records to the ambulance supplier or beneficiary. Attending physicians must provide a physician certification statement (PCS) and medical records that support medical necessity. Other healthcare providers, such as dialysis facilities, nursing homes, wound care centers, physical therapists, etc., must provide the ambulance supplier with any needed medical records.**

The Medicare benefit for non-emergency ambulance transports is limited. A patient must have a health problem to the degree that transport, such as a wheelchair van or private car, could put their health and safety at risk.

Medicare only covers non-emergent transports if either:

1. The beneficiary is confined to a bed, AND other transport methods would endanger their health; or
2. The transport requires trained staff to be present due to the beneficiary's current health status.

Medical record(s) must show transportation by other means is contraindicated

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

If you are providing medical services to a Medicare patient that can only be transported to recurring medical appointments (such as wound care, dialysis or other appointments) by ambulance, it is imperative that patient medical records include comprehensive clinical assessment data. Please see the Ambulance Prior Authorization – Documentation Checklist for Medical Professionals on our website below.

For more information on coverage, the prior authorization program and medical record requirements, please visit our website at Novitas-Solutions.com and select your jurisdiction. Select the Medical Review tab and then select Prior Authorization. You will find frequently asked questions, the Prior Authorization checklist, fax coversheets, documentation checklists, and educational opportunities along with other tools available to assist you. Additional information about the model is available at <http://go.cms.gov/PAAmbulance>. If you have any questions, please contact our Novitas Prior Authorization Contact Center at 1-855-340-5975 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Sincerely,

Novitas Prior Authorization Team