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DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2002 TO: ALL INCOME MAINTENANCE MANUAL HOLDERS					

Changes to Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) policy resulted from recommendations of the NEMT Task Force. Changes were made to reduce the cost of travel reimbursement, eliminate program misuses and fraud, and to create a plan for recouping funds lost to misuse and fraud.

The NEMT Application Form (now the OFS-NEMT-1) was updated to reflect policy changes. A copy is included with this change.

The Access to Rural Transportation (ART) program is no longer paid through CHET, but is now paid through RAPIDS as part of the NEMT program. Verification requirements for attendance/travel for the ART program has been added to the policy.

Other changes to the NEMT policy include the following:

Altered forms will result in automatic denial.

Advance payments are limited to 1 or a maximum of 2 when the patient is making weekly trips. Whether the second advance payment is approved depends on whether the check for the first has been received by the client.

Services paid, or eligible to be paid under any other program, or otherwise not charged to Medicaid, are not covered under NEMT.

Procedural changes have been made in RAPIDS to fail NEMT for CHIP recipients.

Round trips for hospitalization are limited to 2, 1 for admission and 1 for discharge, when a parent or family member chooses not to stay with the patient. Travel for parents/children to visit a hospitalized individual is no longer reimbursed.

Expenses claimed in excess of those approved in advance will not be paid.

Travel is reimbursed from the patient's home (not the driver's) to the medical facility and return.

Meals are reimbursed only in conjunction with an overnight stay when lodging is also approved.

Round trips are limited to 1 per day per household. Customers must be asked to car pool when others in the household have appointments for the same day at the same facility. Parents must make an effort schedule appointments for children at the same time or on the same day when possible.

Mileage is limited to the nearest comparable facility for routine services such as allergy shots, blood pressure reading, etc. This would also apply when mobile clinics are available nearer the patient's home that offer the same treatment as the patient is receiving at a facility farther away.

The minimum mileage for one application is 15 miles. Two or more trips may be combined to meet this minimum, provided all trips occur within the same 60-day period.

Parking expenses may be reimbursed up to \$3 per day for a lot with a receipt, and up to \$2 per day for meter parking without a receipt, when free parking is not available within a reasonable distance.

Statements have also been added to the OFS-NEMT-1 to advise applicants of the above changes, including penalties for intentional program violations and the fact that applications are due no later than 60 days following the trip for which reimbursement is being requested.

Appendix E has been added to list hospitals currently awarded border status. Workers must contact BMS with questions on hospitals not listed.

Questions regarding RAPIDS procedure should be directed to the RAPIDS Help Desk.

Policy questions should be directed to the OFS Policy Unit.

