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Title: Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Services On-site Treatment and Transport to Non-traditional Destinations

Introduced by: Domenic Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation

Original Author: Jayne Courts, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee A

House Action: **REFER**

Whereas, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will only cover the costs of emergency medical services (EMS) transport of patients, not treatment without transport, and such ambulance transports are further restricted to defined locations, not necessarily to the most appropriate and beneficial location for the patient, and

Whereas, paramedics and other EMS personnel can often provide on-site, community-based evaluation, and triage health care services in a more cost effective manner than the emergency room setting or traditional CMS defined transport destinations, and

Whereas, EMS could transport patients directly to the appropriate next site of care such as a psychiatric hospital, a detoxification unit, or other site, thus providing more cost-effective care, and

Whereas, EMS companies providing transportation of patients to the appropriate next site of care, other than to CMS approved destinations, incur the expense of the care and the transport with no opportunity to recoup this revenue loss; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with emergency medical services organizations in Michigan to seek a change in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reimbursement policy to reimburse the on-site evaluation and treatment of patients, when applicable, and transport of patients to the appropriate next site of care, rather than only to CMS defined and limited locations; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reimburse emergency medical services providers for the evaluation and transport of patients to the appropriate next site of care rather than only to CMS defined and limited transport locations.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Sources:

1. Co-authored in collaboration with Damon Obiden, EMT-P, IC
2. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 10, Section 10.3.3 (<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c10.pdf>).