

Section XIII: Transportation – Ambulance and Air Services

The following are guidelines for reimbursement of ambulance and air transportation. These services are reported with HCPCS ambulance and air transportation codes. The table below indicates the HCPCS codes and their reimbursement for transportation services using the appropriate calculations for urban and rural base rate and mileage.

For the purpose of determining the definition of rural mileage versus urban mileage, any county outside of the eight (8) counties listed below would be considered rural:

Cherokee County, Clayton County, Cobb County, DeKalb County, Douglas County, Fulton County, Gwinnett County and Paulding County.

Charges for services and mileage must be based on “loaded” mileage only, e.g., from the pickup of a patient to his/her arrival at the destination. Unloaded trips and mileage are not reimbursable.

Any ambulance and air transportation fees outside of this schedule should be paid at usual, customary and reasonable charges in compliance with O.C.G.A. §34-9-203(a), and reasonable charges shall be limited to such charges as prevail in the state of Georgia for similar treatment or services.

Example fee calculation:

Given a total mileage of 44 miles under A0425 for ground ambulance service in a rural area, multiply the rural mileage times total miles (\$11.26 x 44 = \$495.44) and add the value of rural base rate (\$11.26) (\$495.44 + \$11.26) for a total of \$506.70. If this service also required ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS – emergency) (A0429), add \$540.34 to the earlier calculation of \$506.70, giving a new total of \$1047.04 (\$540.34 + \$506.70).

HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION	BASE RATE & URBAN MILEAGE	RURAL BASE RATE & RURAL MILEAGE
A0425	Ground mileage, per statute mile	\$11.14	\$11.26
A0426	Ambulance service, advanced life support, non-emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1)	\$401.33	\$405.26
A0427	Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1 – emergency)	\$635.42	\$641.66
A0428	Ambulance service, basic life support, non-emergency transport (BLS)	\$334.44	\$337.71
A0429	Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS – emergency)	\$535.10	\$540.34
A0430	Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (fixed wing)	\$3,934.96	\$5,902.44
A0431	Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (rotary wing)	\$4,574.97	\$6,862.45
A0432	Paramedic intercept (PI), rural area, transport furnished by a volunteer ambulance company which is prohibited by state law from billing third-party payers	\$585.26	\$590.99
A0433	Advanced life support, level 2 (ALS2)	\$919.70	\$928.70
A0434	Specialty care transport (SCT)	\$1,138.60	\$1,149.76
A0435	Fixed wing air mileage, per statute mile	\$11.46	\$17.19
A0436	Rotary wing air mileage, per statute mile	\$30.56	\$45.85