

Missouri Valley Division

of the International Association of Fire Chiefs

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GEMT

As a Kansas Fire Chief and President of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I am leading the effort in the state of Kansas to build a coalition of stakeholders to support state specific legislation which permits public agencies that provide emergency medical services (EMS) the ability to receive supplemental reimbursement for these valuable services currently being performed.

This information is being provided to assist administrators of public agencies within Kansas that provide emergency medical transport, pre-stabilization, or preparation for transport. This document also represents basic information for stakeholder groups for the purposes of discussion with local officials.

GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT (GEMT)

GEMT legislation would allow public agencies who are obligated by Law to provide EMS to receive supplemental reimbursement from the Federal Government for valuable services currently being performed but not paid for.

- This initiative is **NOT** part of any Medicaid expansion effort
- This initiative is viewed as **relief** for public entities that provide for EMS Transport

GEMT is **NOT** associated with the Affordable Care Act.

The Federal Government is required to provide assistance in the form of Medicaid reimbursement for qualified individuals that meet certain criteria. Each state that adopts a reimbursement program is “entitled” to receive federal funds to assist that state with providing this healthcare coverage.

GEMT is not new, currently, Washington, California, Texas, Indiana, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Louisiana use some form of these programs to draw down Federal dollars to help offset the cost of providing ground emergency medical transport services.

THE GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:

- Draws down Federal dollars to help offset the cost of providing emergency ambulance and transport for qualifying Medicaid patients
- Two primary mechanisms for drawing down money are CPE's and IGT's

The governmental agency that operates the EMS services are allowed to participate in the recovery of costs associated with providing medical services which includes transportation of Medicaid beneficiaries when the state Medicaid program does not cover the full cost of the service. The two most common ways that this occurs are through Certified Public Expenditure "CPE" and Inter-Governmental Transfers "IGT."

- CPE's are Certified Public Expenditures for use in "Fee for Service" (FFS).
Cost sharing program-Kansas is 56%/44% split of the uncompensated cost of the service.
An entitlement program that is mandatory (is not subject to federal appropriations).
- IGT's are Inter-Governmental Transfers
Cost sharing program-Kansas is 56%/44% split of the total cost of the service.
An entitlement program that is mandatory (is not subject to federal appropriations).

There are many programs within the 50 states that use these methods to draw down federal money for the same objective as GEMT. The most common are public health programs and schools.

GEMT as applied.....

Example:

Let's say you have an annual volume of 9,000 total ambulance transports per year by your governmental EMS entity or Fire Department. With a qualifying Medicaid percentage of 20%, that would be 1,800 qualifying transports annually.

If the reimbursement rate is \$180.00, and the calculated cost of services is \$1,180.00, we subtract the \$180.00 from the \$1,180 which leaves an uncompensated cost of \$1000 which is the amount that the provider cost shares at 56%/44% with the Feds. Because 56% amounts to \$560.00, we then multiply \$560.00 by the 1800 qualifying patient transports and we would be eligible to receive \$1,008,000 in new revenue. This is RELIEF!

CPE/IGT all-inclusive costs can range from \$1,000 - \$2,000 per transport. Under federal guidelines the cost of providing the transport includes all the associated costs with providing the service. This includes both direct and indirect costs. As a result, the actual cost of transport can be significantly higher than the reimbursable rate.

These amounts can be adjusted to your actual numbers to give a more realistic representation of the money you would receive.

- Every state participates in CPE or IGT programs
- The programs have existed for more than 30 years

As stated, every state participates in these types of programs. Most of these programs have been running for more than 30 years.

To move forward:

- Create enabling legislation to facilitate a State Plan Amendment (SPA)
- SPA creates the program that establishes the "rules" for participation

The biggest issue with developing these types of programs is getting the enabling legislation to create a State Plan Amendment or SPA. If the legislation does not specify certain things, you cannot include them in the SPA. The state will draft the SPA language and insure that it meets state regulations but they will only include what you want to include. The SPA process is very labor intensive and establishes all of the rules for what can be included in the state GEMT program. They do not have the background to know what is all inclusive in your delivery system.

- Providers must develop the SPA, the state will ensure it meets state regulations
- The state will present the SPA to CMS for Federal approval
- The state and Feds will only approve what is asked for (if you don't ask/you will not receive)

The state will then submit the SPA for approval to CMS. Once CMS has approved the program providers can begin to submit their reports for reimbursement.

- It may in fact be possible that all costs associated with the development of the program could be applied to the cost of service
- Participation is always voluntary

Note: There is also potential for "FIRST RESPONDER FEE REIMBURSEMENT"

More information on this very real potential for first responder reimbursement will follow in future correspondence depending on future developments concerning these reimbursement opportunities.

Standby.....more information to come.....

We are moving forward with these efforts and appreciate your support.



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If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

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