

## **Medi-Cal Benefit Added: Non-Medical Transportation**

Pursuant to *Welfare and Institutions Code* (W&I Code), Section 14132(ad)(1), non-medical transportation (NMT) is covered, subject to utilization controls and permissible time and distance standards. This benefit is available to all eligible full-scope Medi-Cal beneficiaries and pregnant women during pregnancy and for 60 days postpartum, including any remaining days in the month in which the 60<sup>th</sup> postpartum day falls. NMT includes transporting recipients to and from Medi-Cal covered medical, mental health, substance abuse or dental services.

W&I Code, Section 14132(ad)(2)(A)(i) defines NMT as including, at minimum, round trip transportation for a recipient to obtain covered Medi-Cal services by passenger car, taxicab or any other form of public or private conveyance.

NMT does not include the transportation of sick, injured, invalid, convalescent, infirm or otherwise incapacitated recipients by ambulances, litter vans or wheelchair vans licensed, operated and equipped in accordance with state and local statutes, ordinances or regulations. These services may be covered as non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services.

### **Registering NMT Vehicles and Enrolling as an NMT Provider**

Pursuant to W&I Code, Section 14132(ad)(8), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS or Department) established Medi-Cal NMT provider enrollment requirements to allow currently enrolled Medi-Cal NEMT providers and new transportation providers to enroll as NMT providers and provide NMT services with passenger vehicles. These requirements implement W&I Code, Sections 14043.15 and 14043.26 and, as such, have the full force and effect of law.

Effective November 29, 2019, all NMT applicants requesting consideration for enrollment and all currently enrolled transportation providers requesting to provide NMT services are required to apply using the Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment (PAVE) system, available at [www.pave.dhcs.ca.gov](http://www.pave.dhcs.ca.gov).

Transportation providers who are currently enrolled in Medi-Cal and want to enroll as an NMT provider and provide NMT services, as defined by W&I Code, Sections 14132(ad)(2)(A)(i) and 14132(ad)(2)(A)(ii), can request to make this change by submitting a supplemental change request with additional information using the PAVE online system.

Transportation providers who are not currently enrolled in Medi-Cal, but want to provide NMT services are required to complete and submit the *Medi-Cal Provider e-Form Application* and submit all supporting documentation using the online PAVE system. All applications must include the appropriate application fee.

All applicable information must be completed in the PAVE online enrollment system and must include:

- National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- Provider type (Non-Medical)
- Action requested (Add NMT vehicle[s] or driver[s])
- For all NMT vehicles:
  - Vehicle identification number
  - Make and model of vehicle
  - Year of vehicle
  - License plate number

- Legible copies of all of the following documents for all vehicles:
  - DMV vehicle registration as required by law
  - Proof of vehicle insurance as required by law
- For all driver(s):
  - Driver's name
  - California driver's license
- Legible copies of all of the following documents for all drivers:
  - California DMV driving record
  - California driver's license
  - Motor Carrier Safety Administration (MCSA) 5875 and MCSA 5876 as required by law

The transportation organizations/entities shall ensure that all NMT drivers comply with all applicable state and federal licensing and certification requirements and all applicable state and federal statutes and/or regulations relating to the operation of a motor vehicle and/or transportation of passengers.

Only enrolled providers who have been approved by DHCS to render NMT services may bill for NMT services. The effective date of enrollment to provide NMT services will be retroactive to the date a complete application was submitted.

PED will no longer accept paper applications from NMT applicants as of November 29, 2019. As a result, any paper applications postmarked after November 28, 2019, from NMT applicants will be returned to the applicant.

Providers who have questions or encounter difficulties while completing their application using the PAVE system may call the PAVE Help Desk for assistance at (866) 252-1949.

Providers may refer to the following sections of the appropriate Part 2 manual for more information: *Medical Transportation – Ground, Medical Transportation – Ground: Billing Codes and Reimbursement Rates, Medical Transportation – Ground: Billing Examples and Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women.*