



2023-2024 Legislative Agenda

Medical Assistance

- Change Medical Assistance reimbursement for mileage to be consistent with federal Medicare policy reimbursing ambulance services for **the number of miles the Medicaid beneficiary is transported in the ambulance vehicle**
- Apply the annual federal “Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) to Medical Assistance payment for ambulance services to provide the basis for an update to the payment limits for ambulance services that is equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year
- Regulatory fixes to Title 55, Chapter 1245 Ambulance Transportation consistent with federal guidelines under the Medicare Claims Processing Manual and Medicare Benefit Policy Manual
- Raise the Medicaid rate comparable to the Medicare rate for ambulance service

Sustainable Funding

- Develop a **non-optional** model for sustainable funding of EMS either through a combined municipal/county funding model, a county authority model or state tax or fee returned to the municipality with the premise that every municipality has some financial responsibility for the provision of EMS in their community
- The AAP will support funding that is provided directly to transporting EMS agencies
- EMS is an essential service, designed by the General Assembly, in Act 37 of 2009. EMS should be acknowledged, promoted and supported as an essential service and safety net for many residents in Pennsylvania

Recruitment, Retention and Workforce Development

- Review workforce availability and clinical data related to the change in minimum staffing requirements for basic life support ambulances under Act 72 of 2022 to justify an extension to the sunset date of April 2027.
- Revise current regulations under 28 Pa Code §1025 Education. EMS Educational Institutes to give the Department of Health Bureau of EMS the ability for sufficient oversight of licensed EMS Educational Institutes to foster exceptional EMS educational training and promote the successful certification of new EMS providers
- Investigate any funding through the Department of Labor and Industry. EMTs and paramedics are on the high priority occupations list

Statewide Fee Schedule

- Explore the implementation of a reasonable statewide ambulance fee schedule structure for all insurers with a mechanism to review and increase reimbursements making all ambulance services in this Commonwealth “in network” providers

Community Health Plans

- Provide additional reimbursement for extra attendants as needed for patients who require additional resources for safe care. The extra attendant is needed for a residential evaluation and the safe transportation and placement of bariatric patients.

Insurance Reimbursement

- Require commercial insurers to utilize HCPCS codes and pay reimbursement rates with the base level of service provided (i.e. basic life support or advanced life support) for claims related to treatment without transportation
- Investigate insurance reimbursement for paramedic intercept or a statutory mandate of bundled billing agreements for BLS/ALS joint responses with sufficient penalties if these agreements are violated to alleviate the private pay burdens of patients for advanced life support care in these situations
- Investigate the elimination of medical co-pays and/or deductibles for 911 emergency ambulance service

The Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania (AAP) is the lead organization for the advancement of the needs of its members in the emergency and non-emergency ambulance and medical transportation industry.

The AAP advocates the highest quality patient care through ethical and sound business practices, advancing the interests of its members in important legislative, regulatory, educational and reimbursement issues.

In accomplishing this goal, the AAP is dedicated to excellence in providing superior service to all facets of its membership and in developing positive relationships with other organizations associated with the medical transportation industry through prompt communications and effective educational programs. In carrying out this mission, the AAP is committed to meet the needs of its members in the volunteer, non-profit and for-profit sector.