

Ambulance Services (for Ohio Only)

Policy Number: CS003OH.D
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[Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Policies
None

Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of Ohio. Any requests for services that are stated as unproven or services for which there is a coverage or quantity limit will be evaluated for medical necessity using Ohio Administrative Code 5160-1-01.

Coverage Rationale

Ambulance services are considered medically necessary in certain circumstances. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [Ohio Administrative Code, Rule 5160-15-23, Transportation: services from an eligible provider: ground ambulance services](#).

Emergency Air Ambulance services are considered medically necessary in certain circumstances. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the [Ohio Administrative Code, Rule 5160-15-24, Transportation: services from an eligible provider: air ambulance services](#).

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Modifier	Location
Ambulance Modifiers	
Ambulance claims are billed with two of the following modifiers. The first modifier indicates the place of origin, and the second modifier indicates the destination. *Exception: QL must be billed in place of the origin/destination combination.	
D	Diagnostic or therapeutic site other than P or H when these are used as origin codes
E	Residential, domiciliary, custodial facility (other than 1819 facility)
G	Hospital-based ESRD facility
H	Hospital
I	Site of transfer (e.g., airport or helicopter pad) between modes of ambulance transport
J	Freestanding ESRD facility

Modifier	Location
Ambulance Modifiers	
Ambulance claims are billed with two of the following modifiers. The first modifier indicates the place of origin, and the second modifier indicates the destination.	
N	Skilled nursing facility
P	Physician's office
QL*	Patient pronounced dead after ambulance called
R	Residence
S	Scene of accident or acute event
X	Intermediate stop at physician's office on way to the hospital (destination code only) Note: Modifier X can only be used as a destination code in the second position of a modifier.

HCPCS Code	Description
Air Ambulance (<i>Also see Air Ambulance Revenue Code 0545 below</i>)	
A0430	Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (fixed wing)
A0431	Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (rotary wing)
A0435	Fixed wing air mileage, per statute mile
A0436	Rotary wing air mileage, per statute mile
S9960	Ambulance service, conventional air services, nonemergency transport, one way (fixed wing)
S9961	Ambulance service, conventional air service, nonemergency transport, one way (rotary wing)
T2007	Transportation waiting time, air ambulance and nonemergency vehicle, one-half (1/2) hour increments
Ground/Other Ambulance	
A0225	Ambulance service, neonatal transport, base rate, emergency transport, one way
A0380	BLS mileage (per mile)
A0382	BLS routine disposable supplies
A0384	BLS specialized service disposable supplies; defibrillation (used by ALS ambulances and BLS ambulances in jurisdictions where defibrillation is permitted in BLS ambulances)
A0390	ALS mileage (per mile)
A0392	ALS specialized service disposable supplies; defibrillation (to be used only in jurisdictions where defibrillation cannot be performed in BLS ambulances)
A0394	ALS specialized service disposable supplies; IV drug therapy
A0396	ALS specialized service disposable supplies; esophageal intubation
A0398	ALS routine disposable supplies
A0420	Ambulance waiting time (ALS or BLS), one-half (1/2) hour increments
A0422	Ambulance (ALS or BLS) oxygen and oxygen supplies, life sustaining situation
A0424	Extra ambulance attendant, ground (ALS or BLS) or air (fixed or rotary winged); (requires medical review)
A0425	Ground mileage, per statute mile
A0426	Ambulance service, advanced life support, nonemergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1)
A0427	Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 1 (ALS 1 emergency)
A0428	Ambulance service, basic life support, nonemergency transport (BLS)
A0429	Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS, emergency)
A0432	Paramedic intercept (PI), rural area, transport furnished by a volunteer ambulance company which is prohibited by state law from billing third party payers
A0433	Advanced life support, level 2 (ALS 2)
A0434	Specialty care transport (SCT)

HCPCS Code	Description
Ground/Other Ambulance	
A0998	Ambulance response and treatment, no transport
S0207	Paramedic intercept, nonhospital based ALS service (nonvoluntary), nontransport
S0208	Paramedic intercept, hospital based ALS service (nonvoluntary), nontransport

Revenue Code	Description
0540	Ambulance General Classification
0541	Ambulance Supplies
0542	Ambulance Medical Transport
0543	Ambulance Heart Mobile
0544	Ambulance Oxygen
0545	Ambulance Air Ambulance
0546	Ambulance Neonatal Ambulance Services
0547	Ambulance Pharmacy
0548	Ambulance EKG Transmission
0549	Ambulance Other Ambulance

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Ambulance transportation is a service and, therefore, not subject to regulation by the FDA.

References

Ohio Administrative Code/5160/Chapter 5160-1-01. Medicaid medical necessity: definitions and principles. Available at: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-1-01>. Accessed April 21, 2025.

Ohio Administrative Code/5160/Chapter 5160-15.23. Transportation: services from an eligible provider: ground ambulance services. Available at: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-15-23>. Accessed April 21, 2025.

Ohio Administrative Code/5160/Chapter 5160-15.24. Transportation: services from an eligible provider: air ambulance services. Available at: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-15-24>. Accessed April 21, 2025.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
08/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine review; no change to coverage guidelines Archived previous policy version CS003OH.C

Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state (Ohio Administrative Code [OAC]) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state (OAC), or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state (OAC), or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this guideline, please check the federal, state (OAC), or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare uses InterQual® for the primary medical/surgical criteria, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) for substance use, in administering health benefits. If InterQual® does not have applicable criteria, UnitedHealthcare may also use UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and/or Utilization

Review Guidelines that have been approved by the Ohio Department for Medicaid Services. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and Utilization Review Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.