Emergency Triage, Treat and Transport (ET3) AHCCCS Updates Meeting

What is ET3?

ET3 stands for Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport.

Typically, reimbursement models for emergency transportation services require EMS personnel to transport patients to a high acuity, high cost setting following a 911 call, even when a lower acuity setting would be more appropriate.

If a member refuses transport to an ER, then the member must sign a form (when possible) indicating refusal to transport against medical advice.

What is ET3?

ET3 seeks to remedy the challenges currently faced by EMS providers, by providing greater flexibility to ambulance care teams following a 911 call.

ET3 has the goals of:

- **Increasing efficiency in the EMS system** to more readily respond to and focus on high-acuity cases, such as heart attacks and strokes, by reducing unnecessary transports to the Emergency Room; and

- **Increasing Quality of Care** by:
  - **Providing person-centered care**, such that beneficiaries receive the appropriate level of care delivered safely at the right time and place, while having greater control of their healthcare through the availability of more options; and
  - **Encouraging appropriate utilization of services** to meet health care needs effectively; and

- **Cost reduction.**

What is ET3?

The three components of ET3 are:

1. **Transport of the Member to an Alternate Destination** (e.g. an urgent care center or PCP's office)

2. **Treatment in Place by a Qualified Health Care Practitioner** (e.g. medical triage of the member via telehealth, with the EMS personnel assisting as needed)

3. **Treatment in Place by a Qualified Health Care Practitioner *In Person*** (e.g. the EMS personnel provide treatment at the member's existing location, using standing orders)

CMS and ET3

ET3 was originally "kicked off" by the CMS Innovation Center for Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Providers.

It released a Request for Applications (RFA) in early August 2019 for ambulance providers and suppliers who wished to participate in ET3 when serving Medicare FFS members, and 14 applicants were chosen within Arizona.

- The list of all selected applicants for participation in the Medicare FFS model can be found here: https://innovation.cms.gov/files/x/et3-selected-applicants.pdf

- AHCCCS registered providers who were not selected for the Medicare FFS Model, will be able to participate in the AHCCCS ET3 model.

ET3 and Long-Term Sustainability

- Long-term sustainability of the ET3 model program depends upon the participation of multiple payer sources
- CMS preference given to providers partnering with multiple payer sources, including their State Medicaid Program
- RFA applicants to submit Letters of Intent (LOI) for additional payer sources.

What is the AHCCCS Role in ET3?

- AHCCCS issued a Letter of Intent for their use in the RFA.
  - [AHCCCS Letter of Intent for the ET3 Program](#)

- Per LOI, AHCCCS intends to pursue an ET3 model to allow this greater flexibility for providers, and the quality of care benefits for members.

- This model will be separate from the Medicare model.

Who Can Participate in AHCCCS ET3?

- AHCCCS' intent is for any AHCCCS Registered Emergency Transportation Provider (Provider Type 06) to have the opportunity to participate in ET3.

- Additional details shall be released in regards to any additional requirements for participation, as decisions are made.

AHCCCS ET3 Timeline and Stakeholder Input

- AHCCCS has concluded a detailed review and has approved the implementation of a model based on ET3 in Arizona.

- The anticipated effective date is Fall 2021.

- More details regarding the initiative will be released throughout 2021, prior to the effective date.

ET3 Billing Information

AHCCCS intends to publish formal billing guidance for providers in the FFS Provider Billing Manual and to issue guidance for the MCOs, once final decisions have been made.

Currently AHCCCS anticipates opening the following 3 codes for ET3 billing, with the addition of a CG modifier.

- A0426 AMBULANCE SERVICE, ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT, NON-EMERGENCY
- A0428 AMBULANCE SERVICE, BASIC LIFE SUPPORT, NON-EMERGENCY TR
- A0998 AMBULANCE RESPONSE AND TREATMENT, NO TRANSPORT

Information on rates shall be released as decisions are made.

ET3 Email Alerts

Stay up to date on the latest CMS Medicare FFS ET3 Model news and updates by [subscribing to the ET3 Model listserv](#).

- Please note that AHCCCS has its own [ET3 Model email list](#) for Medicaid providers interested in participating in the AHCCCS Model.

ET3 Resources

AHCCCS ET3 Updates Page

- https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/ET3/

ET3 CMS Model Page

- https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/et3/

ET3 CMS FAQs

- https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/et3/faq.html