

March 31, 2016

Brian Zolynas
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707

RE: Arizona SPA #16-002, Air Ambulance Rates Update

Dear Mr. Zolynas:

Enclosed is State Plan Amendment (SPA) #16-002, Air Ambulance Rates Update, which revises the State Plan to describe Air Ambulance Rates, effective January 1, 2016.

If you have any questions about the enclosed SPA, please contact Theresa Gonzales at (602) 417-4732.

Sincerely,

Monica H. Coury Assistant Director

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

cc: Jessica Woodard, CMS

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES		OMB NO. 0938-0193	
TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF	1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER:	2. STATE	
STATE PLAN MATERIAL	16-002 Arizona		
FOD. Contour for Medicare and Medicaid Comices	3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TIT	TLE XIX OF THE	
FOR: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICA	AID)	
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TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE		
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES	January 1, 2016		
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	7,		
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (Check One):			
3. THE OF TEAN MATERIAL (Check One).			
NEW STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO BE O	CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN		
COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AME		amendment)	
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION:	7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT:		
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8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:	9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION		
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Att. 4.19-B, page 5(h)	Same		
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT:			
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Updates the State Plan to revise Air Ambulance Rates			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One):			
☐ GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT	OTHER, AS SPEC	IFIED:	
COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED			
NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL			
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12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCT OFFICIAL.	10. KETOKIV 10.		
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13. TYPED NAME:	Phoenix, Arizona 85034		
Monica Coury			
14. TITLE:	-		
Assistant Director			
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15. DATE SUBMITTED:			
March 31, 2016			
FOR REGIONAL OF			
17. DATE RECEIVED:	18. DATE APPROVED:		
PLAN APPROVED – ON	E COPY ATTACHED		
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:	20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OF	FICIAL:	
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## State: <u>ARIZONA</u> METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES OTHER TYPES OF CARE

The following is a description of methods and standards for determining the payment rates for ambulance transportation services included in the transportation bullet listed in Attachment 4.19-B, page 5b. Except as otherwise noted below, AHCCCS uses a uniform methodology in reimbursing both governmental and private providers for ambulance emergency and non-emergency transportation services.

## 1) Ground Ambulance Rates set by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

ADHS regulates ambulance companies in Arizona (except for those owned and operated by American Indian tribes and federal agencies) licensing and rate setting. ADHS sets rates based on data submitted by providers including direct and indirect costs, reimbursable and non reimbursable charges, utilization data, and public payer settlements. ADHS offers annual provider rate adjustments based upon the Arizona Ambulance Inflation factor (AIF). The AIF is comprised of the average annual change in the CPI-U for transportation (50%) and for medical care (50%). The transportation category is composed of such things as motor vehicles (new and used), motor fuel, parts and equipment, maintenance and repair and public transportation. The medical care category is composed of such things as medical care commodities, medical care services – professional, hospital and related services.

For dates of service prior to October 1, 2009, AHCCCS will reimburse ambulance companies at 80.0% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 76% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 72.2% of the ADHS established rate. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of July 7, 2011. For dates of service beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2012 and are posted at:

http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/Downloads/FFSrates/Transportation/Transrateswebsite20130724.xlsx

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 68.6% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2013 and are posted at: <a href="http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/Downloads/FFSrates/Transportation/Transrateswebsite20131001.xls">http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/Downloads/FFSrates/Transportation/Transrateswebsite20131001.xls</a> For dates of service beginning October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, AHCCCS will reimburse those providers at 74.74% of the ADHS established rate in effect as of August 2, 2014 and are posted at: <a href="http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/Downloads/FFSrates/Transportation/Transrateswebsite20141001.xlsx">http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/Downloads/FFSrates/Transportation/Transrateswebsite20141001.xlsx</a>

## 2) Ground Ambulance Rates set by AHCCCS

AHCCCS establishes ground ambulance rates for out-of-state companies, companies operated by American Indian tribes, and federal agencies such as the National Park Service that operates ambulances in Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Meade National Recreation Area. Rates were initially established in 1994 based on the average (mean) reimbursement rates paid by commercial insurance companies. AHCCCS adjusts ground ambulance rates periodically based on the Consumer Price Index for Medical Services, the Consumer Price Index for Other Medical Services and the price of gasoline in Arizona. Rates are posted on the AHCCCS website at <a href="http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/ProviderBilling/rates/Transportationrates.aspx">http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/ProviderBilling/rates/Transportationrates.aspx</a>

## 3) Air Ambulance Rates

AHCCCS establishes reimbursement rates for air ambulance services. For claims with dates of service on or before December 31, 2015, the reimbursement rates are based on a A-cost study of Air Ambulance Costs was conducted in 2000 to establish the initial rates for specialty and non-specialty transports, and Air Ambulance rates are adjusted periodically based on the Consumer Price Index for Other Medical Professionals, the CPI for Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration forecast of jet fuel prices. For claims with dates of service from January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, the reimbursement rates are based on a study of ambulance rates in other western states, setting the AHCCCS rates for non-specialty transports and mileage equal to the median rate among the states studied and setting the rates for specialty transports equal to the AHCCCS rates that were in effect on December 31, 2015. The AHCCCS fee-for-service Rrates are posted on the AHCCCS website at http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/ProviderBilling/rates/Transportationrates.aspx

TN No. <u>14-013C16-002</u>				
Supercedes	Approval Date:	Effective Date:	October 1, 20	<del>914</del> January 1,
<u>2016</u>				-
TN No. <u>12-005</u> 14-013C				