

To: Tennessee Ground Ambulance Service Providers
From: Samantha F. Rummage, TennCare Fiscal Chief of Staff
Date: October 7, 2022
Subject: Ground Ambulance Service Providers Assessment and Payment Program Relaunch

As you are aware, early in 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) indicated to TennCare that the ground ambulance service provider assessment and payment program that have historically been in place would have to be redesigned in order to ensure compliance with federal law. In response, TennCare immediately placed a pause on the program and has been closely working with the Tennessee Ambulance Provider Association (TASA) since to address the issue. A revised assessment bill was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly and became law effective May 25, 2022, to address the issue retroactively back to January 1, 2022. The public chapter governing this program may be found here: <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/112/pub/pc1052.pdf>.

The new ground ambulance assessment is based solely on emergency transports for all-payers, instead of emergency and non-emergency transports as before, per CMS's guidance. TennCare has been working with the Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services and TASA to obtain the necessary emergency transport data needed to re-initiate the program. Moreover, TennCare also worked with CMS to construct an approved directed payment program that the assessment funds will support. TennCare is pleased to announce that we now have both the emergency transport data and the CMS directed payment approval necessary to reinitiate this program.

Assessment invoices for SFY22 Q3 & Q4 will be combined and will have a due date set for mid-November, per invoice instructions. Failure to pay by the due date will result in a \$50 per calendar day penalty pursuant to T.C.A. § 71-5-1506. SFY23 Q1 invoices will be mailed sometime in November with a December due date.

Directed payment instructions for a combined SFY22 Q3 & Q4 payment have been delivered to the MCOs. Eligible providers can expect to start receiving these checks late October – early November. A distribution of how the payments will be delivered to each provider by regional MCO has been sent to TASA for dissemination among providers receiving payment. SFY23 Q1 payments will be scheduled to align with the SFY21 Q1 assessment invoicing.

Cc: Zane Seals, TennCare Chief Financial officer
Rick Valentine, Tennessee Ambulance Service Association President