

Apple Health (Medicaid) ambulance transportation billing policy during COVID-19 pandemic

Enhanced rate available for COVID-19-related transports

Retroactive to dates of service on and after February 29, 2020, ground and air ambulance providers are eligible to receive enhanced rates for transports related to COVID-19. Possible rate enhancements are available when transporting a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or when performing interfacility transfers to clear beds for COVID-19 capacity. The enhanced rates will continue to be paid for COVID-19 related transports until the declared state of emergency is discontinued.

Effective for dates of service on and after February 29, 2020, the Health Care Authority (HCA) is temporarily adding modifier CR for catastrophe/disaster-related ambulance transports related to COVID-19.

Billing

When transporting suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases or when transferring non-COVID-19 patients to clear beds in a hospital for COVID-19 cases, providers must include modifier CR (catastrophe/disaster-related) in addition to any other required modifiers. The claim must include a comment in the claim notes field indicating the transport was related to COVID-19.

For COVID-19-related transports that have already been billed to HCA prior to this notice and did not include the CR modifier, providers may rebill to receive the enhanced rate. If modifier CR was included, HCA will adjust these claims to receive the enhanced rate.

To access HCA's current rates, go to the agency's [provider billing guides and fee schedules](#) webpage.

See HCA's [Information about novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) webpage](#) for updated information regarding COVID-19.

This update will be reflected in the April 1, 2020 version of the [Ambulance Transportation Billing Guide](#).