**Prior Authorization Review Panel**

**MCO Policy Submission**

A separate copy of this form must accompany each policy submitted for review.

Policies submitted without this form will not be considered for review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan: Aetna Better Health</th>
<th>Submission Date: 11/01/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Number: PA-001</td>
<td>Effective Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Name: Air Ambulance Transportation</td>
<td>Revision Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Type of Submission – Check all that apply:**

- [ ] New Policy
- [x] Revised Policy*
- [ ] Annual Review – No Revisions
- [ ] Statewide PDL

*All revisions to the policy must be highlighted using track changes throughout the document.

Please provide any clarifying information for the policy below:

**CPB PA-001 Air Ambulance Transportation**

Clinical content was last revised on 08/07/2017. No additional non-clinical updates were made by Corporate since the last PARP submission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Authorized Individual (Please type or print):</th>
<th>Signature of Authorized Individual:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bernard Lewin, M.D.</td>
<td>Bernard Lewin, M.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proprietary

Revised July 22, 2019
Clinical Guidelines:

Air Ambulance Transportation

Number PA-001

*Please see amendment for Pennsylvania Medicaid at the end of this CPB.*

Medical Necessity

Air ambulance transportation, by helicopter or fixed wing aircraft, is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

A. The member’s medical condition requires immediate and rapid ambulance transportation that cannot be provided by ground ambulance; that is, the member’s condition is such that the time needed to transport by ground, or the instability of transportation by ground, poses a threat to the member’s survival or seriously endangers the member’s health; AND

B. The point of pickup is inaccessible by ground vehicle, such as in remote or sparsely populated areas, OR

C. Great distances or other obstacles are involved in getting the member to the nearest facility able to provide the appropriate care, such as limited emergency cases where ground transportation is available, but the time required to transport the member by ground rather than air endangers the member’s life or health, for example, when it would take a ground ambulance 30-60 minutes or more to transport a member whose medical condition at the time of pick-up required immediate and rapid transport due to the nature and/or severity of the illness or injury.

Applicable Billing Codes

HCPCS Codes

A0140 - Nonemergency transportation and air travel (private or commercial) intra- or interstate

A0424 - Extra ambulance attendant, ground (ALS or BLS) or air (fixed or rotary winged);

A0430 - Ambulance service, conventional air services, transport, one way (fixed wing)
AETNA BETTER HEALTH® of Pennsylvania

**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

**A0999** - Unlisted ambulance service

**S9960** - Ambulance service, conventional air services, nonemergency transport, one way (fixed wing)

**S9961** - Ambulance service, conventional air service, nonemergency transport, one way (rotary wing)

**Revenue Codes**

**0545** Ambulance - Air Ambulance

**0549** Ambulance - Other Ambulance

**Related Policies and References**


AETNA BETTER HEALTH® of Pennsylvania
8. Galvagno SM, Thomas S et al. Helicopter emergency medical services for adults with

9. Stewart CL, Metzger RR et al. Helicopter versus ground emergency
   medical services for the transportation of traumatically injured

10. Appropriate Utilization of Air Medical Transport in the Out of Hospital
    March/1999; Revised April/2008.

11. Widmeier K. Understanding When to Request a Helicopter for Your
    Patient. Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS). October
    3, 2014; 39(10).

    https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-
    Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads.bp102c10.pdf, accessed May 18,
    2017.
AETNA BETTER HEALTH® OF PENNSYLVANIA

Amendment to
Aetna Clinical Policy Bulletin Number: PA-001 Air Ambulance Transportation

There are no amendments for Medicaid.

www.aetnabetterhealth.com/pennsylvania

annual 11/01/2019