



Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT): A Critical Benefit at Risk

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Our Guides to All Things NEMT



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Housekeeping



- This event is being recorded
- All callers are on mute
- We will run Q&A through the Chat function
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Agenda



1. The Medicaid NEMT benefit
2. The current threats the benefit and consumers face at the state and federal level
3. What the Center is doing to protect and defend the benefit from these threats
4. What advocates can do to protect and defend the benefit

Medicaid NEMT Basics

What is it?

- A required Medicaid benefit designed to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for enrollees who have no other means of transportation
- Currently serves over 7 million individuals

NEMT's value

- Critical
- Cost-effective

History of the brokerage model

- 2005 Deficit Reduction Act



Current threats to NEMT: State Level



Lax oversight leaves patients at risk in Medicaid rides program

AJC finds a pattern of injuries, some fatal, to frail passengers who depend on taxpayer-funded rides to medical appointments.

ATLANTA-NEWS



Medical transport company to pay \$1 million for poor service in R.I.

Medicaid transportation contractor improving, but complaints continue

By: [MACKENZIE RIGG](#) | September 12, 2018

[View as "Clean Read"](#)

After Complaints, State Puts Contract For Medical Rides Out To Bid

Current threats to NEMT: Federal Level



Budget Proposal Would Allow States To Drop Medicaid Transportation Benefits Across The Entire Program

Medicaid waivers put transport benefits on chopping block

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Non-emergency medical transportation services are in for a turbulent ride in states seeking to use waivers under the Affordable Care Act to trim Medicaid rolls and available benefits.

Financing Is Key

- There is *no scenario* in which removing the financing for the benefit will improve it.



The Center is Taking Steps!



- **Expanding our Outreach**
 - Educating our existing partners in states that haven't looked at this issue before
 - Identifying new national partners
 - Developing a relationship with the broker community
- **Developing Materials**
- **Talking to Federal Policymakers**
- **Developed a Listserv that YOU can join!**

What Steps can YOU Take?



1. Expand your coalition to include:
 - Federally-qualified health centers
 - Dialysis clinics
 - Children's Hospitals
 - Disability rights advocates
 - Transportation brokers/providers

2. Collect stories

3. Engage with important stakeholders such as Governors and Medicaid agencies

Resources Available from the Center



- Check out our policy resources at www.healthinnovation.org
- Join our NEMT advocacy listserv by e-mailing Madison Tallant at mtallant@communitycatalyst.org
- Contact us at amullin@communitycatalyst.org and rbrill@communitycatalyst.org

Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

An Overlooked Lifeline for Older Adults

October 2016



JUSTICE IN AGING
FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Questions?

Click the Q&A icon located at the bottom
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To join our NEMT listserv e-mail
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Thank you!