



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Bureau of Health Services Financing

February 12, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Kleckley, Speaker
Louisiana State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

The Honorable Scott Simon, Chairman
House Health and Welfare Committee
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

RE: House Concurrent Resolution No. 109

Dear Honorable Chairs:

The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is submitting the following study of the feasibility, desirability and practicality of a mode of transportation other than an ambulance to transport a patient in a non-emergency situation to comply with House Concurrent Resolution 109 from the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

The Louisiana Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) program is dedicated to providing NEMT services to Medicaid enrollees consistently, reliably and in a cost-effective manner. DHH has researched the Medicaid NEMT programs in several surrounding states with regard to their policies for providing transportation other than an ambulance to transport Medicaid recipients, both ambulatory and non-ambulatory, who are not in a life-threatening situation or in need of immediate medical attention in which a physician has confirmed that no medical equipment or monitoring is needed. DHH Health Standards has learned that the current practice standards vary significantly among the states researched. For example, the use of stretcher vans is prohibited by some and requires staff on the vehicle to have a minimum of Basic EMS training. It may also be that use is allowed with multiple stipulations and classifications, the most frequent of which is that at least two (2) people staff the van along with very specific rules regarding which patients are eligible to utilize this mode of transportation. Additional stipulations for stretcher vans may include stable health status of the patient, no medical/monitoring

equipment allowed during transport and approval by a medical doctor for patient's use of this mode of transportation.

Health Standards staff surveyed several states in the Dallas CMS region, as well as nearby states and certain other states to determine if they allowed stretcher van transport of non-emergency bedbound patients, see findings below and chart attached.

- Arkansas allows the non-emergent transport of passengers via stretcher van under certain conditions. For example, the passengers must be medically stable requiring no monitoring equipment, medication or other assistance during transport. Arkansas also requires that the van be staffed by two individuals, one of which must be a certified EMT, LPN, RN, MD or DO.
- Missouri similarly allows stretcher vans to transport non-emergent, medically stable individuals who require no medical monitoring for routine transportation of non-ambulatory patients. The stretcher van must be staffed by two persons who, at a minimum, have completed a nationally recognized course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- In Mississippi, as is the case in Louisiana, bedbound patients must be transported by type I, II or III ambulances staffed by EMS professionals.
- Texas forbids the transport of individuals in a stretcher unless the vehicle is staffed by a person holding a license as an EMS provider.
- New Mexico does not license stretcher vans.
- Other states surveyed that allow stretcher vans under certain circumstances include Arizona, California, New York, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

Should state law change and DHH be able to certify an alternative mode of transportation for a Medicaid patient who is a convalescent or otherwise bed confined, we would anticipate in future fiscal years a savings in payments to non-emergency transportation providers who were able to meet certain requirements as current payments to ambulance providers for NEMT for convalescent patients are at a base rate of \$175 with an additional \$6 per mile.

Adding this type of service as well as a new provider type would require DHH's Health Standards to develop and promulgate licensing rules for the new program and provider type and revise existing rules for other programs who may wish to provide these services. Health Standards would also encounter the possibility of requiring additional staff for management of the new providers for need reviews, licensing requirements and the

necessary inspections. Providers also may encounter a major fiscal impact in establishing such a mode of transportation to their business model.

It should be noted that the Louisiana Medicaid NEMT program has worked to significantly improve our current program and we will continue to work to make additional improvements to ensure effective and efficient delivery of these much needed services to Medicaid recipients.

As always, thank you for your continued commitment to Louisiana residents and your leadership on these critical issues. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of J. Ruth Kennedy in blue ink.

J. Ruth Kennedy
Medicaid Director

Handwritten signature of Cecile Castello in blue ink.

Cecile Castello
Director
Health Standards

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Health and Welfare Committee
Rep. Alfred Williams
David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library

**HCR 109 of 2014 Regular Legislative Session
Comparative Analysis of Stretcher Van Licensing by State**

State	Are Stretcher vans licensed by state?	Passenger Requirements	Medical Monitoring Required Yes/No	Staffed Yes/No	Number of Staff Required	Staffing Requirements
Arizona	Yes					
Arkansas	Yes	Medically Stable	No	Yes	2	At least 1 must be a certified EMT, LPN, RN, MD or DO
California	Yes					
Mississippi	No					
Missouri	Yes	Medically Stable	No	Yes	2	Minimum requirement – completed nationally recognized CPR course
New Mexico	No					
New York	Yes					
Oklahoma	Yes					
Pennsylvania	Yes					
Texas	No					