

Chapter 15

Transportation

For Medicaid recipients, transportation to outpatient mental health centers (OMHC) appointments is primarily the responsibility of the local health department. Transportation for Medicaid recipients will be based on the closest, willing provider. Transportation to psychiatric rehabilitation programs (PRPs) is included in the PRP rate of reimbursement under the Maryland Public Behavioral Health System's (PBHS) fee-for-service payment, whether or not the person is eligible for Medicaid. The time transporting the participant is not allowed. Transportation time and the act of transporting individuals to a rehab services is not reimbursed.

If an ambulance is called for a behavioral health emergency involving a Medicaid recipient, the ambulance provider must bill Medicaid directly. Ambulance services are not authorized through Beacon Health Options, Inc. (Beacon) d, and the bill is not to be sent to Beacon.

In accordance with Health General Article 10-628 for reimbursement for services provided under the emergency petition process, the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will pay for transportation of an individual by a public safety officer, to an emergency facility for an emergency evaluation if the individual is uninsured or their insurance does not cover this. If, after evaluation by a physician, the individual is verified for an involuntary admission, BHA will reimburse the transportation from the community hospital's emergency department to the receiving hospital that has been identified to accept that person as an involuntary admission. In these two instances, Beacon may be billed for transportation. However, if an individual is subsequently found to have private insurance, the ambulance service bill shall be paid by the private insurance carrier. For costs requested for transportation reimbursement under the emergency petition process, Beacon shall be provided a bill and documentation of services.