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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 92 INF-47

TO: Commissioners of
 Social Services

DIVISION: Health and Long
 Term Care

DATE: November 18, 1992

SUBJECT: Reimbursement for Neonatal Ambulance Transportation
 to Regional Perinatal Centers

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Medical Assistance Staff
 Transportation Staff
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: For additional information contact Anna Maynard at
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ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
92 ADM-21		505.10	20.3(d)		90 LCM-51
90 ADM-1			365-a.2(j)		10 NYCRR
91 INF-11					405.21

I. Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the change in Medicaid reimbursement policy for neonatal (newborn) ambulance transportation services between community hospitals and Regional Perinatal Centers (RPCs) instituted by the New York State Department of Health. Effective July 1, 1992, ambulance transportation (surface only) of critically-ill newborn infants became the responsibility of Regional Perinatal Centers. They will arrange for necessary ambulance services and be reimbursed by Medicaid directly.

II. Background Information

Regionalization of neonatal services into a single system of care was established by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to assure that each infant who requires intensive care receives it as expeditiously as possible in the appropriate facility. These facilities, Regional Perinatal Centers, must have signed and executed affiliation agreements with community hospitals within their region according to Title 10 of the Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (10 NYCRR) 405.21, effective January 1, 1989. The RPC will be responsible for finding a RPC hospital bed and arranging for neonatal ambulance transportation of the critically-ill infant to the RPC. At time of discharge the RPC will arrange for the transfer of the infant back to the community hospital. Please note that neither air transportation of neonatal infants nor maternal transportation is covered under this program.

The following hospitals have been designated by the New York State Department of Health as Regional Perinatal Centers:

Name of Hospital	Location
Childrens Hospital	Buffalo
Strong Memorial Hospital	Rochester
Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital	Syracuse
Albany Medical Center Hospital	Albany
Westchester County Medical Center	Valhalla
Montefiore Medical Center (Einstein)	Bronx
Bronx Municipal Hospital Center	Bronx
North Central Bronx Hospital	Bronx
Kings County Hospital Center	Brooklyn
University Hospital of Brooklyn	Brooklyn
Bellevue Hospital Center	Manhattan
Tisch Hospital	Manhattan
Mount Sinai Hospital	Manhattan
New York Hospital	Manhattan
Presbyterian Hospital	Manhattan
Long Island Jewish Medical Center	New Hyde Park
Nassau County Medical Center	East Meadow
Winthrop University Hospital	Mineola
North Shore University Hospital	Manhasset
University Hospital	Stony Brook

III. Reimbursement for Neonatal Ambulance Transportation

The DOH conducted a study of neonatal ambulance transportation costs and has established a reimbursement rate of \$602.57. As of July 1, 1992, reimbursement for neonatal ambulance transportation of critically-ill, high-risk infants to and from a RPC will be made to Regional Perinatal Centers. Local district staff will no longer receive requests from providers for prior authorization of this ambulance transportation service. This service will be authorized by the RPCs, and payment will be made by them to the ambulance companies.

Gregory M. Kaladjian
Executive Deputy Commissioner