

May 7, 2024

Authorization Codes for NEMT Services

Dear Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) providers,

The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) has recently learned of some confusion around NEMT codes and their authorization requirements. Please review this notification to clarify any questions you may have about NEMT services for members and whether they require prior authorization.

Please Note: (1) In emergency situations, prior authorization is not required for transportation. (2) Prior authorization is also not required when transporting someone between hospital to nursing facility, hospital to custodial facility, hospital to residence, or hospital to hospital. (3) HPSM accepts prior authorization requests up to a year after the date of service.

Please refer to HPSM’s NEMT FAQs for additional information on prior authorization requirements: <https://www.hpsm.org/docs/default-source/provider-services/hpsm-nemt-authorization-faqs.pdf>

Please review these NEMT-specific codes and their authorization requirements:

Code	Code Description	Auth Requirement	Comments
A0130	Non-emergency transportation: wheelchair van	Conditional	Auth not required for hospital to nursing facility (modifier HN), hospital to custodial facility (modifier HE), hospital to residence (HR), or hospital to hospital (modifier HH) rides.
A0225	Ambulance service; neonatal transport,	Does NOT require prior authorization	

	base rate, emergency transport, one way		
A0380	BLS mileage (per mile) (use for wheelchair and litter van transports only)	Conditional	Auth not required for hospital to nursing facility (modifier HN), hospital to custodial facility (modifier HE), hospital to residence (HR), or hospital to hospital (modifier HH) rides.
A0420	Ambulance waiting time (ALS or BLS), one half (1/2) hour increments	Does NOT require prior authorization	HPSM will deny if the transport code is not for emergency transport and has not been authorized.
A0424	Extra ambulance attendant, ground [ALS or BLS], [per hour]	Does NOT require prior authorization	HPSM will deny if the transport code is not for emergency transport and has not been authorized.
A0425	Ground mileage, per statute mile (use for ambulance transports only)	Conditional	Requires authorization when combined with a transport code where an authorization is required. For example, ambulance service for non-emergency transport.
A0426	Ambulance service, advanced life support, non-emergency transport, level 1 (ALS1)	Does NOT require prior authorization	
A0427	Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level 1 (ALS1-emergency)	Does NOT require prior authorization	
A0428	Ambulance service, basic life support, non-	Conditional	Auth not required for hospital to nursing facility (modifier HN), hospital to custodial facility (modifier HE), hospital

	emergency transport (BLS)		to residence (HR), or hospital to hospital (modifier HH) rides.
A0429	Ambulance service, basic life support, emergency transport (BLS-Emergency)	Does NOT require prior authorization	
A0433	Advanced life support, level 2 (ALS2)	Does NOT require prior authorization	
A0434	Specialty care transport (SCT)	Conditional	Auth not required for hospital to nursing facility (modifier HN), hospital to custodial facility (modifier HE), hospital to residence (HR), or hospital to hospital (modifier HH) rides.
S9976	Lodging, per diem, not otherwise classified	Requires prior authorization	
S9977	Meals, per diem, not otherwise specified	Requires prior authorization	
T2001	Nonemergency transportation; patient attendant/escort	Does NOT require prior authorization	HPSM will deny if the transport code is not for emergency transport and has not been authorized.
T2005	Non-emergency transportation: stretcher van	Conditional	Auth not required for hospital to nursing facility (modifier HN), hospital to custodial facility (modifier HE), hospital to residence (HR), or hospital to hospital (modifier HH) rides.

NEMT authorizations: <https://www.hpsm.org/provider/authorizations/specialty-provider>

HPSM's prior authorization required list here: <https://www.hpsm.org/provider/authorizations>

Please direct questions to HPSM Provider Services at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

The Health Plan of San Mateo