

(v) The test was reasonable and medically necessary for the treatment of an illness.

[71 FR 69786, Dec. 1, 2006, as amended at 72 FR 66402, Nov. 27, 2007; 82 FR 52636, Nov. 13, 2017; 82 FR 59496, Dec. 14, 2017; 84 FR 61490, Nov. 12, 2019; 85 FR 86301, Dec. 29, 2020]

§ 414.522 Payment for new advanced diagnostic laboratory tests.

(a) The payment rate for a new ADLT—

(1) During the new ADLT initial period, is equal to its actual list charge.

(2) Prior to the new ADLT initial period, is determined by the Medicare Administrative Contractor based on information provided by the laboratory seeking new ADLT status for its laboratory test.

(b) After the new ADLT initial period, the payment rate for a new ADLT is equal to the weighted median established under the payment methodology described in § 414.507(b).

(c) If, after the new ADLT initial period, the actual list charge of a new ADLT is greater than 130 percent of the weighted median established under the payment methodology described in § 414.507, CMS will recoup the difference between the ADLT actual list charge and 130 percent of the weighted median.

(d) If CMS does not receive any applicable information for a new ADLT by the last day of the second quarter of the new ADLT initial period, the payment rate for the test is determined either by the gapfilling or crosswalking method as described in § 414.508(b)(1) and (2).

[81 FR 41100, June 23, 2016]

§ 414.523 Payment for laboratory specimen collection fee and travel allowance.

(a) *Specimen collection fee and travel allowance.* In addition to the payment amounts provided under this subpart for CDLTs, new CDLTs, and new ADLTs, CMS pays a specimen collection fee, as set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and a travel allowance, as set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(1) *Payment for specimen collection.* Except as provided in paragraph (a)(1)(v) of this section and subject to the annual

update in paragraph (a)(1)(iv) of this section, beginning January 1, 2023, CMS pays \$8.57 for all specimens collected in one patient encounter, where the specimen(s) is:

(i) Used to perform a CDLT paid under this subpart G;

(ii) Collected by a trained technician from a Medicare beneficiary who is—

(A) Homebound as described in 42 CFR 424.22(a)(1)(ii).

(B) A non-hospital inpatient, but only when no qualified personnel are available at the facility to collect the specimen;

(iii) Of the following type—

(A) Blood specimen collected through venipuncture.

(B) A urine sample collected by catheterization.

(iv) Beginning January 1, 2024, CMS updates the specimen collection fee amount under paragraph (a)(1) of this section for each calendar year by the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (U.S. city average) for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the year preceding the update year.

(v) For a specimen collected from a Medicare beneficiary.

(2) *Payment for travel allowance—(i) General requirement.* CMS pays a travel allowance, as calculated under paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section, where the specimen is one for which a specimen collection fee is paid under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(ii) *Travel allowance basis.* CMS pays a travel allowance on the following bases:

(A) *Flat-rate travel allowance.* The flat-rate travel allowance applies when the trained technician travels 20 eligible miles or less (calculated in accordance with paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(A) of this section) to and from one location for specimen collection from one or more Medicare beneficiaries; or

(B) *Per-mile travel allowance.* The per-mile travel allowance applies when:

(1) The trained technician travels more than 20 eligible miles (calculated in accordance with paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(A) of this section) to and from one location for specimen collection from one or more Medicare beneficiaries; or

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(2) The trained technician travels to more than one location for specimen collection from more than one Medicare beneficiary.

(iii) *Travel allowance amount*—(A) *Eligible miles*. Eligible miles begin at the laboratory or the starting point of the technician's travel for specimen collection as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and end at the laboratory or the ending point of the technician's travel for specimen collection as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section. Eligible miles do not include miles traveled for any purpose unrelated to specimen collection as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, such as collecting specimens from non-Medicare beneficiaries or for personal reasons.

(B) *Travel allowance mileage rate*. The travel allowance mileage rate is equal to the IRS standard mileage rate plus an amount to cover expenses for a trained technician equal to the most recent median hourly wage for phlebotomists, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, divided by 40 to represent an average miles-per-hour driving speed.

(C) *Travel allowance amount calculation*. (1) For the flat-rate travel allowance basis specified in paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(A) of this section, the travel allowance amount is the travel allowance mileage rate specified in paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(B) of this section multiplied by ten, divided by the number of beneficiaries for whom a specimen collection fee is paid under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(2) For the per-mile travel allowance basis specified in paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(B) of this section, the travel allowance amount is the number of eligible miles multiplied by the travel allowance mileage rate specified in paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(B) of this section, divided by the number of beneficiaries for whom a specimen collection fee is paid under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) [Reserved]

[87 FR 70225, Nov. 18, 2022]

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Subpart H—Fee Schedule for Ambulance Services

SOURCE: 67 FR 9132, Feb. 27, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

§ 414.601 Purpose.

This subpart implements section 1834(l) of the Act by establishing a fee schedule for the payment of ambulance services. Section 1834(l) of the Act requires that, except for services furnished by certain critical access hospitals (see § 413.70(b)(5) of this chapter), payment for all ambulance services, otherwise previously payable on a reasonable charge basis or retrospective reasonable cost basis, be made under a fee schedule. Section 1834(l)(17) of the Act requires the development of a data collection system to collect cost, revenue, utilization, and other information determined appropriate from providers of services and suppliers of ground ambulance services.

[67 FR 9132, Feb. 27, 2002, as amended at 84 FR 63193, Nov. 15, 2019]

§ 414.605 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the following definitions apply to both land and water (hereafter collectively referred to as “ground”) ambulance services and to air ambulance services unless otherwise specified:

Advanced life support (ALS) assessment is an assessment performed by an ALS crew as part of an emergency response that was necessary because the patient's reported condition at the time of dispatch was such that only an ALS crew was qualified to perform the assessment. An ALS assessment does not necessarily result in a determination that the patient requires an ALS level of service.

Advanced life support (ALS) intervention means a procedure that is, in accordance with State and local laws, required to be furnished by ALS personnel.

Advanced life support, level 1 (ALS1) means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle, medically necessary supplies and services and either an ALS assessment by ALS personnel or the provision of at least one ALS intervention.