



Provider Bulletin

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January 5, 2026

Ground Ambulance Transport to Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs)

Applies to: Mo HealthNet Fee-For-Service Ground Ambulance Providers

Effective date: January 1, 2026

- **Ground Ambulance Reimbursement for BHCC Transports**
- **Billing**

Ground Ambulance Reimbursement for BHCC Transports

Pending Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2026, the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) will reimburse enrolled ambulance providers for ground transportation from the point of pickup to the nearest appropriate BHCC for participants with a confirmed or suspected mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnosis who are experiencing a behavioral crisis or are presenting for urgent behavioral needs.

Upon CMS's approval of the State Plan Amendment (SPA), MHD will update the claims processing system with the indicated procedure code, modifier combinations, and reprocess claims for dates of service on or after January 1, 2026.

Billing

For accurate reporting purposes, providers must submit the appropriate procedure codes listed below with **place of service code 53** (Community Mental Health Center) and modifier SD (Scene of accident or acute event, to diagnostic or therapeutic site) to report BHCC transports. A completed ambulance trip ticket must be maintained in the medical record.

Procedure Code	Modifier	Procedure Code Description	Maximum Quantity
A0426	SD	Ambulance service, ALS, non-emergency, level one (1) (ALS1)	2
A0427	SD	Ambulance service, ALS, emergency transport, ALS1	2

A0428	SD	Ambulance service, BLS, non-emergency	2
A0429	SD	Ambulance service, BLS, emergency	2
A0433	SD	Advanced life support, level two (2) (ALS2)	2

Join the MO HealthNet Division [live webinar](#) for Ambulance providers on February 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Refer to the [Ambulance Provider Manual](#) for more information on place of service codes, trip tickets, and procedure codes. For questions, contact Provider Communications via [eMOMED](#) or by calling (833) 222-7916.

APPLICABILITY

The information in this bulletin applies to the MO HealthNet (MHD) Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and may apply to the MHD Managed Care (MC) program, as well. MHD's FFS policies set the basic coverage policies for benefits and limitations in the MC program. The MC health plans have additional flexibilities in operating their respective programs, such as determining which services require prior authorization and details required for claims submission. Certain services, such as pharmacy, are "carved out" of MC and will be paid through the FFS program. To ensure your understanding of this bulletin's applicability to each MC health plan, please [contact your health plan](#) directly. If you are unable to resolve a MC issue directly with a health plan contact a MC Liaison by completing a [Managed Care Provider Request for Information](#).

Bulletins will remain on the [MO HealthNet News](#) page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the appropriate [Provider Manual Archives](#).

Providers and other interested parties are urged to [subscribe](#) to [MO HealthNet News](#) email list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider hot tips, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications.

Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping their MO HealthNet card, calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and choosing Option One or using the Participant Eligibility option in [eMOMED](#). Questions regarding MO HealthNet MC benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet [MC health plan](#).

[MHD Education and Training](#) offers interactive web-based training for providers and general and program-specific educational resources. Visit our [Provider Training Calendar](#) to register for an upcoming training.

Provider Communications
573-751-2896
or via Provider Communications Management in [eMOMED](#)