



Ground Ambulance & Patient Billing Advisory Committee

Level of Service and Care



Edward Marasco

Background

Ed Marasco, MPM, CMTE, EMT-P (Ret)

Vice President

- 40 + years as provider, administrator, board member, etc.
- 14+ years working exclusively in revenue cycle management.



- 30+ years old
- 1.5 Million ambulance claims in 2023
- Alaska to Florida.
- Clients range from 100 to 75,000 encounters per year.
- Clients of all organizational types.

Ambulance Payment Paradigm

- History
- Fair and Equitable Payment
- Medicare as the Standard
- Transport vs Care



Transport vs Care

- Historically: Transport Only (with few exceptions)

“The Medicare ambulance benefit is a transportation benefit and without a transport there is no payable service. When multiple ground and/or air ambulance providers/suppliers respond, payment may be made only to the ambulance provider/supplier that actually furnishes the transport.”

Source: Medicare Benefit Policy Manual

Chapter 10

- Currently: Pilot Projects Beyond Transport
- Future: Open for Discussion

Key Element of Ambulance Payment

- Medical Necessity
- Fair and Equitable Payment
- Base Rate
- Loaded Mile Rate
- Level of Care Recognition in the Base Rate

Level of Care/Service

- Clinical Algorithm
 - Training of the Personnel
 - Interventional Capabilities
 - Variable by Jurisdiction (State, Regional, Local, Medical Command)
- Payment Algorithm
 - Driven by “Guesstimates” Regarding Cost
 - Effort to Compartmentalize Reality
 - Recognition of Readiness Cost (ALSI vs ALSII)

Level of Care/Service - Clinical

- Specialty Care Transport (SCT) – Critical Care Paramedic
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) – Paramedic
 - EMT Intermediate
 - EMT Cardiac Tech
 - EMT Advanced
- Basic Life Support (BLS) - EMT Basic
- First Responder



Level of Care/Service - Payment

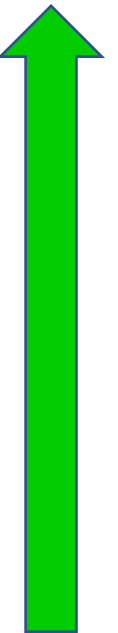
- Specialty Care Transport (SCT)
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) II
- Advanced Life Support (ALS)- Emergency
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) - Non Emergency
- Basic Life Support (BLS) - Emergency
- Basic Life Support (BLS) - Non Emergency



Acuity



Risk



Cost

BLS

- Vehicle Licensure
- Crew Composition
- Ultimate Clinical Findings
- Transport
- Emergency vs Non Emergency



ALSI

- Vehicle Licensure
- Crew Composition
- ALS Assessment
- Ultimate Clinical Findings
- Transport
- Emergency vs Non Emergency



ALSII

- Vehicle Licensure
- Crew Composition
- ALS Assessment
- Ultimate Clinical Findings
- Number of (Specific) Interventions
- Transport



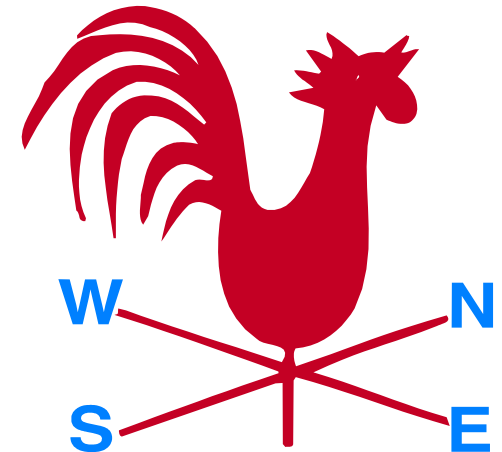
SCT

- Vehicle Licensure
- Crew Composition
- Ultimate Clinical Findings
- Special Capabilities and Patient Needs
- Transport



Areas of Challenge

- Emergency vs Non Emergency
- BLS vs ALSI
- ALSI vs ALSII
- ALSII vs SCT



Emergency vs Non Emergency

- Caller Information
- Ambulance Response Mode
- Ultimate Clinical Findings



BLS vs ALSI

- Crew Composition
- Ambulance Response Mode
- ALS Assessment
- Ultimate Clinical Findings



ALSI vs ALSII

- Crew Composition
- Ambulance Response Mode
- ALS Assessment
- Ultimate Clinical Findings
- Number of (Specific) Interventions



ALSII vs SCT

- Crew Composition
- Special Capabilities and Training
- Scope of Practice Questions
- Ultimate Clinical Findings



Questions



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