

THE
GATHERING
THREATS TO
NEMT

MARCH 2017

MARCH 2017

FEBRUARY
2018

FALL 2018

State Medicaid programs are required to provide necessary transportation for beneficiaries to and from providers through the non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) benefit, which facilitates access to care, and positively impacts an individual's health care outcomes.

Despite the positive outcomes from providing transportation, there have been gathering threats against the benefit that could potentially eliminate an important benefit for millions of Medicaid beneficiaries, impacting access to care, and damaging health care outcomes.

H.R.1394 (Introduced by Rep. Brooks R-IN-5)

"Nonemergency Medical Transportation.—Nothing [...] shall be construed as requiring a State plan under this title (or a waiver of the plan) to provide for transportation to and from providers as specified in section 431.53 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection)."

HHS and CMS Joint Letter to the Nation's Governors

*"States may also consider creating greater alignment between Medicaid's design and benefit structure with common features of commercial health insurance, to help working age, nonpregnant, non-disabled adults prepare for private coverage. These state-led reforms could include[...] **Waivers of non-emergency transportation benefit**"*

Putting America First – The President's Budget for HHS FY2019

*"**Make Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Optional.** Under current regulations, states are required to provide Non-Emergency Medical Transportation to all Medicaid beneficiaries. The Budget commits to using regulatory authority to **change provision of this benefit from mandatory to optional.** [No budget impact]"*

HHS and CMS Annual Unified Agenda

*"This proposal will **reexamine current regulations under which States are required to assure NEMT for all Medicaid beneficiaries** when they have no other means of accessing medical services. The goal of this proposed rule is to provide States with greater flexibility as part of the administration's reform initiatives."*

Help Us Defend the NEMT Benefit

Create a long term statutory safeguard for the NEMT benefit and move it from regulation into Medicaid statutes.

Support the Congressional Black Caucus' appropriations limitation language blocking against the potential policy changes that could eliminate the NEMT Benefit.



NEMT is an essential component of our Nation's health care delivery system, particularly in rural areas.

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Over half of Medicaid transportation services are utilized by patients with the highest burden of chronic disease.

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Currently NEMT is utilized by roughly 10% of Medicaid beneficiaries, and only accounts for 1% of Medicaid spending.

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Elimination of the NEMT benefit would have adverse impacts on patients, the health care system, and state budgets.

CTAA is currently tracking developments around the NEMT benefit and is working with a number of key stakeholders in this arena to develop and implement an advocacy and policy strategy. Contact CTAA Health Care and Transportation Associate, Alex King at king@ctaa.org or 202-340-5284 for more information.