

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT202127    APRIL 1, 2021

## **CMS approves FSSA request for attendant care transportation options**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Division of Aging (DA) and the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) request to allow attendant care providers to transport Aged and Disabled (A&D) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) waiver members to nonemergency medical appointments.



The attendant care providers would continue to accompany the members during their appointments to provide companionship and help ensure information is understood. With attendant care providers being able to transport and provide attendant care, additional health risks will be mitigated by limiting the members' exposure to those outside their immediate families and caregivers.

Effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2021, attendant care providers may provide this transportation benefit as part of the care they currently give to these Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) waiver members. The flexibility granted by the CMS will allow the benefit to continue for 6 months after the end of the federal public health emergency.

Attendant care providers may bill for the time they provide services during trips and appointment visits. Escorting of participants does not include mileage or other costs not associated with the provision of personal care. While this change is in effect starting April 1, 2021, there will be an additional publication in the upcoming weeks to detail a modifier that will need to be used for these claims after the system modification is completed. Prior to the system modification and notification to providers, no modifier is needed for claims to adjudicate properly. Please stay tuned for the upcoming publication explaining the modifier and when it will be required at a later date.

Attendant care service definition has been updated to provide the following direction regarding transportation:

*Transportation to and from community events with companion services provided during the course of transportation to medical appointments.*

### **Reimbursable attendant care transportation services**

The following are examples of reimbursable attendant care transportation services when provided by an attendant care aide:

- Transportation to and from community events, including but not limited to:
  - Daily errands
  - Grocery shopping
  - Participation in community activities
  - Transportation to nonmedical appointments

- Accompanying the participant in the nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) van and assisting with activities of daily living, including but not limited to:

- Ambulation (sitting, standing, walking)
- Transfers between vehicle and medical appointment, transfers from a waiting room to medical office, and transfers from vehicle to home
- Mobility during meeting with medical professional
- Mobility when returning home from medical appointment
- Toileting during course of medical trip (to and from and during medical appointment)
- Eating during course of medical trip (to and from and during medical appointment)



- Providing companionship activities or hands-on assistance while driving the participant to and from medical appointments:
  - The attendant care aide is not prohibited from driving a participant to a medical appointment; however, to receive reimbursement, the attendant care aide must also perform hands-on activities throughout the course of the trip (to and from medical appointment).
  - The aide could also provide companionship activities, including assisting the participant in navigating the medical appointment.

The attendant care aide may bill for the time it takes to perform each hands-on service for the participant.

### **Nonreimbursable attendant care transportation services**

The following are examples of nonreimbursable attendant care transportation services when provided by an attendant care aide:

- Only driving participant to and from medical appointment without providing any hands-on care to the participant unless the aide is also providing companionship activities, including assisting the participant in navigating the medical appointment
- Fuel or mileage associated with taking the participant to a medical or nonmedical event unless the provider is billing under the separate waiver service, nonemergency medical transportation
- Requiring a Medicaid waiver participant to pay for fuel or mileage associated with agency staff assisting participants in the community or medical appointment

Any nonmedical or companion services provided through the attendant care service, must remain within the overall allotted hours on the participant's person-centered service plan.

Please email any questions about attendant care transportation options to [daqinquiries@fssa.in.gov](mailto:daqinquiries@fssa.in.gov).

**QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Customer Assistance at 1-800-457-4584.

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