

A NH Ground Ambulance Cost Study and The Development of an Illustrative, Cost-Based Reimbursement Rate Schedule for Ground Ambulance Services

Purpose of the Study

The Ground Ambulance Cost and Rate Setting Study is designed to gather detailed information on the financial landscape of ground ambulance services in New Hampshire. The study will:

- **Assess Costs:** Analyze the full range of costs associated with ground ambulance services, including pre-hospital care, operational expenses, and the cost of maintaining readiness to respond to emergencies.
- **Evaluate Paid Claims:** Examine the current ambulance fee schedule(s) and paid claims for all NH payors as well as identify additional viable billing codes (i.e. Treat and No-transport).
- **Develop a Rate Schedule:** Create an illustrative, statewide cost-based default rate schedule that can serve as a guideline for reimbursing nonparticipating ground ambulance providers, particularly for fully insured commercial payors.
- **Support Legislation:** Provide the data needed to support future legislation aimed at setting a universal default reimbursement rate for ground ambulance services, potentially prohibiting balance billing.

This study is essential for ensuring that New Hampshire's ground ambulance providers are compensated fairly, enabling them to continue delivering high-quality, timely care to the communities they serve. The project is already underway and will be finished no later than December 31, 2024.

Why should I participate in this study?

Participation is required from providers being asked to participate in this study. The study's findings will inform future legislation and policy decisions to ensure that ambulance services are adequately reimbursed and sustainably funded, ultimately benefiting both providers and patients. The commissioner of the department of safety shall have authority to enforce this reporting requirement upon ground ambulance providers under the general supervision and specific enforcement authority conferred by [RSA 153-A](#).

What data is needed?

If you have already submitted your GADCS instrument, you may be asked to upload the completed instrument to our survey when it launches on September 4th. If you have not yet submitted your GADCS instrument, you may be required to provide additional data, including the following: billing & transport, depreciation, expenditure, and payroll data.

How will data be used?

Data collected from Licensed EMS Units will be aggregated and analyzed, to be presented to stakeholders and legislators in a final report format – no individual EMS unit level data will be shared.

Additional Resources:

- You can find more information by visiting the NHHP website located [here](#)
- Review of the RFP located [here](#)
- Learn more about the GADCs located [here](#)

What is a NPI Number?

A National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a unique 10-digit identification number issued to health care providers in the United States by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). You can locate your NPI number by visiting [NPI Number Lookup - Find Doctors & Organizations in the NPI Registry \(npiprofile.com\)](#)

Our federal reporting was 2022; how will you consider the ongoing impact of inflation on costs?

We will account for inflationary factors by using the CMS Market Basket Data Index published by CMS. We can use this to adjust on a percentage basis for inflation from a past reporting to current. This can also be used to account for future estimated inflation

Federal reporting was across all locations. How will you consider NH specific revenues and costs for providers that operate in multiple states?

A geographic practice cost index (GPCI) has been established for every Medicare payment locality for each of the three components of a procedure's relative value unit (i.e., the RVUs for work, practice expense, and malpractice). We can review the multiple states/regions and determine differences in the GPCI and account for them as needed.

Contact PCG Technical Support for questions regarding this study:

Email: MGADC@pcgus.com

"This effort will provide data vital to the future of sustainable EMS systems in the State of NH. Fire-based EMS agencies are encouraged to participate as we represent the greatest number of licensed EMS Units in the state."