

# 20220906 EMS Financial Health Committee Minutes (draft)

Monday, August 8, 2022 10:00 AM



**Meeting Subject:** EMS Financial Health Committee Meeting - 9/6/2022

**Meeting Date:** 09/06/2022 10:00 AM

**Location:** <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/89157735650>

**Link to Outlook Item:** [click here](#)

**Invitation Message**

**Participants**

Agenda

1. Call to order

- a. Joe called the meeting to order at 10:02

2. Reading of the Maine EMS Mission Statement

“The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective Emergency Medical Services system to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all providers. All members of this Committee should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this Committee, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”

3. Attendance

- [Davis, Darren W](#) (Meeting Organizer)
- [Joseph Kellner VP – Finance, Operations & Strategy](#) (Accepted in Outlook)
- [Andy Turcotte, Paramedic](#) Absent
- [John Martel, MD, Ph.D](#)
- [Joseph Spicuzza](#)
- [Karynlee Harrington \(Karynlee.Harrington@maine.gov\)](#)
- [Katherine Pelletreau \(KPelletreau@MEAHP.com\)](#)
- [Kimberly.LaFauci@Cigna.com](#)
- [Kristine Ossenfort](#)
- [Michael Senecal](#)
- [Rob McGraw](#)
- [Robert Hillman](#) Absent
- [Robert Russell III](#)
- [Scott Guillerault](#) Joined Meeting at 11:08
- [Shawn Esler](#) Absent
- [Stephen Almquist](#)
- [Thomas W Bell \(Thomas.W.Bell@maine.gov\)](#)

Non-Committee Members

Jason Oko  
Sam Hurley

4. Prior Minutes

- a. Minutes Tabled due to the minutes not being distributed

5. Public Comment

- a. No comments offered

6. Modifications to the agenda

7. Old Business

- a. Joe Kellner provided the following notes for review prior to the meeting.

**Medical Necessity and Reasonableness**

- Commercial carriers shall adopt CMS requirements for medical necessity and reasonableness
- Prior authorization may be required for:
  - Repetitive, non-emergent transports (three or more of the same trip in a 30-day period)
  - Payment for transport to a facility that will provide the same level of care as the sending facility
  - Transports to a doctor's office, or other destination that is traditionally non-allowable per CMS guidelines
  - Mileage for any travel beyond the closest appropriate facility to care for the patient
  - Transport to any specialty center outside of Maine
  - No prior authorization is required in any other scenario
- TD: Seek agreement on these items

**Non-Transport Situations**

- When, during an encounter that resulted from an emergency unscheduled request, where that request requires a response to the scene of the emergency, a patient is cared for and subsequently is not transported to a hospital, carriers will reimburse the ambulance base rate, with no payment for mileage.
- Payment shall be made available for Community Paramedicine services, which are delivered in accordance with 32 MRS §84 (4).
  - Covered Codes:
    - 99490: Chronic Care Management
    - 99495, 99496: Transitional Care Management
  - Carriers may require prior authorization for these services
- For both paragraphs above, this report will be shared with the HHS committee requesting establishment of these reimbursement methodologies under the Medicaid program

**Financial and Cost Reporting Standards and Metrics**

- Employ two FTEs in the Bureau of EMS, Maine Department of Public Safety, who are responsible for operating the cost reporting program for EMS entities (Fiscal Note: Approx. \$200,000 per year)
- Cost reporting shall be applicable to all licensed ground transporting and non-transporting ambulance services
- TD: How will cost report data be used
- TD: Any other metrics?
- TD: What happens 12/31/2023 when the current reimbursement methodology sunsets?

- b. Joe Spicuzza inquired if Joe Kellner had received his companies info which references CMS for Medical necessity.

c. Discussion on Prior Authorization:

- a. Joe Kellner reviewed the above text.
- i. Kristine Ossenfort: What about transports to lower level of care.
  - ii. Joe Spicuzza: Last bullet "No prior authorization is required in any other scenario is vague and needs further description.
  - iii. Joe Kellner recommends to change to
    - 1) 911/Emergency
    - 2) Urgent higher level of care where current facility is unable to provide the care needed
    - 3) Closest appropriate.
  - iv. Butch Russell: Should "Mileage for any travel beyond the closest appropriate facility to care for the patient" include "within current hospital system"
    - 1) Discussion ensued about this topic.
    - 2) Butch Russell to put together a recommendation on ancillaries
  - v. Please internalize with stakeholders for further discussion

d. Discussion on reimbursement for no-transports and community paramedicine

- a. Joe Kellner reviewed the above text regarding emergency EMS activations resulting in no transport
- i. Discussion ensued

- e. Butch Russell inquired if the committee should discussion transports to alternate destinations, such as PCP office, Urgent care, dentists office etc. ET3 model as an example. Add to the agenda for the next meeting.
- f. Joe Kellner: reviewed cost reporting standards and metrics
  - a. Should we extend current reimbursement model until cost reporting goes into effect?
    - i. Add to other metrics
    - ii. Volume of Services Provided
    - iii. Entity Type
    - iv. Payer Mix, self pay percentage and self pay collection rate
    - v. Length of stay impact related to lack of availability of transport
    - vi. Licensure level and number of personnel
    - vii. Number of vacancies
    - viii. Volunteer hours dedicated to EMS services
    - ix. Should Ambulance services be in Maine Compare

8. New Business

- a. New representative from Community Health Options, David Stewart
  - a. Motion by Rob McGraw, second by Kristine Ossenfort

- [Joseph Kellner VP – Finance, Operations & Strategy](#) (Accepted in Outlook)
- [Andy Turcotte, Paramedic](#) Absent
- [John Martel, MD, Ph.D](#) Absent
- [Joseph Spicuzza](#)
- [Karynlee Harrington \(Karynlee.Harrington@maine.gov\)](#)
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- b. Motion Carries

9. Action Items

- a. **Butch Russell:** to put together a recommendation on ancillaries for billing for no transports for such EMS activations such as Cardiac Arrests
- b. **ALL:** Internalize topics and discussion with stakeholders for review in next meeting
- c. Joe Kellner to send info on the Minnesota model

10. Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday September 20, 2022 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- b. <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/89157735650>

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Kristine, second by Butch

Adjourned at 11:19