

Rev. 03/18/2020

ESCORT REGULATION**The Alaska State Legislature - Administrative Code****7 AAC 120.430 - Authorized Escort**

(a) The department will approve transportation and accommodation services for an authorized escort to accompany a recipient during travel authorized by the department for medical treatment if

- (1) the recipient is 17 years of age or younger; or
- (2) the recipient is 18 years of age or older and the department determines that the escort is medically necessary for the recipient.

(b) All transportation and accommodation services for an authorized escort must be approved by the department before the time that the transportation and accommodation services are provided. The recipient's health care provider must request authorization for an escort at the same time transportation and accommodation services are requested for the recipient. If the recipient is 18 years of age or older, the recipient's health care provider must submit sufficient information to establish medical necessity for the escort.

(c) The department will not pay for transportation services for an authorized escort if the recipient is transported by ground ambulance or air ambulance.

(d) A provider may not submit a claim to the department for an additional or a higher accommodation rate when the recipient and authorized escort stay in the same room, or when more than one escort stays in the same room, unless the department determines that the circumstances warrant a higher rate as indicated in the prior authorization.

(e) A provider may not submit a claim to the department for more than one room for the recipient and escort or for more than one escort, unless the department determines that circumstances warrant separate accommodations as indicated in the prior authorization.

(f) The department may deny approval of an individual to serve as escort if the individual has demonstrated behavior that is not in the best interest of the recipient or if the individual cannot fulfill the responsibilities of an escort.

ESCORT GUIDANCE (Per Alaska Medicaid's Arranging Patient Travel Billing Manual)**Escort Responsibilities**

- An escort may be medically trained, but medical training is not required
- Alaska Medicaid expects an approved escort to act in the best interest of the recipient and be capable of assisting the recipient during the travel and to/from all scheduled medical appointments. An individual may be denied to serve as an escort for a recipient if the individual has demonstrated behavior that is not in the best interests of the recipient or if the escort cannot fulfill the expectations of an escort

Escort Restrictions

- Alaska Medicaid does not compensate escorts
- Escorts should be individuals who reside in the recipient's home community or other location where the recipient is residing. When an escort must travel from another location to accompany a recipient on their medical event, typically, Alaska Medicaid will only cover the transport from the recipient's point of pick up to the destination where the medical event is occurring and back. Additional reimbursement for the escort may be authorized if the department determines it is in Alaska Medicaid's best interest to approve the transport based off of the medical need of the recipient.
- An escort is not authorized when the recipient is transported by ground or air ambulance. An escort may be authorized after the ambulance transport if the recipient is a minor or if it is medically necessary.
- Alaska Medicaid does not pay for services incurred after the date of death. If a recipient dies while receiving medical treatment, Alaska Medicaid will cover the cost of an escort's return trip if the travel was originally approved. For more information, refer to Transportation of a Deceased Medicaid Recipient.
- When a recipient travels with an escort, it is expected that the recipient and escort will share a hotel room. Separate rooms are not routinely authorized for escorts. Escorts should be appropriate to share accommodations with the recipient. The Division of Health Care Services (DHCS) will review requests for separate rooms when there are unusual circumstances.