

Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy

Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to ambulance billing and charges.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- codifies a base rate for ground ambulance transports;
- prohibits a ground ambulance provider from charging rates that exceed established rates;
- prohibits balance billing;
- requires an insurer and workers' compensation to allow for established rates;
- requires the Office of the Legislative Auditor General to conduct an audit if prioritized;

and

- creates a repeal date.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53-2d-503, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 240

63I-1-231, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 28

63I-1-234, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

63I-1-253, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

ENACTS:

31A-22-627.1, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34A-2-407.1, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 31A-22-627.1 is enacted to read:

31A-22-627.1 . Ground ambulance reimbursement.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Base rate" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

(b) "Medication maximum cost" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

(2) For a mileage rate established in a rule created under Section 53-2d-503, a health benefit plan shall accept a correctly charged mileage rate as an allowable expense for a claim.

(3) For claims made under Section 53-2d-503, a health benefit plan shall accept a correctly charged amount:

(a) that is equal to the base rate as an allowable expense; and

(b) that is equal to the medication maximum cost as an allowable expense for a provided medication.

(4) A health benefit plan shall make a payment for claims described in this section directly to the provider, including an out-of-network provider.

Section 2. Section 34A-2-407.1 is enacted to read:

34A-2-407.1 . Ground ambulance reimbursement.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Base rate" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

(b) "Medication maximum cost" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

(2) For a mileage rate established in a rule created under Section 53-2d-503, an employer or the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall accept a correctly charged mileage rate as an allowable expense for a claim.

(3) For claims made under Section 53-2d-503, an employer or the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall accept a correctly charged amount:

(a) that is equal to the base rate as an allowable expense; and

(b) that is equal to the medication maximum cost as an allowable expense for a provided medication.

(4) An employer or the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall make a payment for claims described in this section directly to the provider, including

an out-of-network provider.

Section 3. Section 53-2d-503 is amended to read:

53-2d-503 . Establishment of maximum rates.

(1) [The] As used in this section:

(a)(i) "Balance bill" means the practice of a health care provider billing an individual for the difference between the individual's billed charges and the amount the individual's health benefit plan allows for a covered service.

(ii) "Balance bill" does not include billing:

(A) an uninsured individual for services provided;

(B) an individual for the difference of the amount allowed by a health benefit plan for a billed service and the amount paid by the health benefit plan for the billed service; and

(C) an individual for a service that was denied by the health benefit plan because the service was an uncovered service under the health benefit plan.

(b)(i) "Base rate" means the rate a ground ambulance provider charges for:

(A) transporting an individual to a hospital or patient receiving facility;

(B) supplies used when transporting the individual;

(C) providing procedures during transport; and

(D) administering medications during transport.

(ii) "Base rate" does not include charges for:

(A) the cost of a medication; or

(B) mileage.

(c) "Medication maximum cost" means a cost for a medication that equals the lower of the:

(i) national average drug acquisition cost; and

(ii) Utah maximum allowable cost established in the Utah Medicaid program.

~~(2) [bureau shall, after receiving recommendations under Subsection (2), establish maximum rates for ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers that are just and reasonable]~~ The bureau shall establish a maximum mileage rate for ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers that is just and reasonable.

~~[(2)] (3)~~ The committee may make recommendations to the bureau on the maximum [rates that should be] mileage rate set under Subsection [(1)] (2).

~~[(3)] (4)(a)~~ Ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers may not charge fees for transporting a patient when the provider does not transport the patient.

(b) The provisions of Subsection [~~(3)(a)~~] (4)(a) do not apply to ambulance providers or paramedic providers in a geographic service area which contains a town as defined in Subsection 10-2-301(2)(f).

(5)(a) The base rate is as follows:

(i) for emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, \$1,234.92;

(ii) for advanced emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, \$1,630.31;

(iii) for paramedic ground ambulance transport, \$2,383.73; and

(iv) subject to Subsection (5)(b), for a transport described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) or (ii) that has a paramedic on board, \$2,383.73.

(b) A ground ambulance provider may charge the rate described in Subsection (5)(a)(iv) if:

(i) a designated emergency medical service dispatch center dispatches a licensed paramedic provider to treat the individual;

(ii) the licensed paramedic provider has initiated advanced life support;

(iii) online medical control directs that a paramedic remain with the patient during transport; and

(iv) the licensed ground ambulance provider has a reimbursement for paramedic services agreement with a paramedic licensed provider for the service provided.

(6)(a) For the mileage rate established in rule under this section, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater than the amount authorized in the rule setting the mileage rate.

(b) For the base rate, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater than the base rate described in Subsection (5)(a) for transportation services.

(c) For a medication, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater than the medication maximum cost for a provided medication.

(7) A ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not balance bill.

(8) Subject to prioritization by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General created in Section 36-12-15 shall conduct an audit of ground ambulance providers, paramedic providers, and insurance companies regarding rates and payments described in this section, Section 31A-22-627.1, and Section 34A-2-407.1.

Section 4. Section **63I-1-231** is amended to read:

63I-1-231 . Repeal dates: Title 31A.

- (1) Section 31A-2-217, Coordination with other states, is repealed July 1, 2033.
- (2) Section 31A-22-627.1, Ground ambulance reimbursement, is repealed July 1, 2027.

Section 5. Section **63I-1-234** is amended to read:

63I-1-234 . Repeal dates: Titles 34 and 34A.

- (1) Subsection 34A-1-202(2)(b)(i), regarding the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- (2) Subsection 34A-1-202(2)(b)(iii), regarding the Coal Miner Certification Panel, is repealed July 1, 2034.
- (3) Section 34A-2-107, Appointment of workers' compensation advisory council -- Composition -- Terms of members -- Duties -- Compensation, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- (4) Section 34A-2-202.5, Offset for occupational health and safety related donations, is repealed December 31, 2030.
- (5) Section 34A-2-407.1, Ground ambulance transport, is repealed July 1, 2027.

Section 6. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:

63I-1-253 . Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.

- (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created -- Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~(7)~~ (8) Section 53-2d-703, Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Health Insurance Program -- Creation -- Administration -- Eligibility -- Benefits -- Rulemaking -- Advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~(8)~~ (9) Section 53-5-703, Board -- Membership -- Compensation -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.

164 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.

165 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) Section 53-22-104.1, School Security Task Force -- Membership -- Duties -- Per

166 diem -- Report -- Expiration, is repealed December 31, 2025.

167 ~~[(11)]~~ (12) Section 53-22-104.2, The School Security Task Force -- Education Advisory

168 Board, is repealed December 31, 2025.

169 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) Subsection 53B-1-301(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections

170 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

171 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Section 53B-7-709, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.

172 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) Title 53B, Chapter 8a, Part 3, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed

173 July 1, 2028.

174 ~~[(15)]~~ (16) Title 53B, Chapter 17, Part 11, USTAR Researchers, is repealed July 1, 2028.

175 ~~[(16)]~~ (17) Section 53B-17-1203, SafeUT and School Safety Commission established --

176 Members, is repealed January 1, 2030.

177 ~~[(17)]~~ (18) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 16, USTAR Researchers, is repealed July 1, 2028.

178 ~~[(18)]~~ (19) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 17, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

179 ~~[(19)]~~ (20) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 18, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure

180 Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.

181 ~~[(20)]~~ (21) Title 53B, Chapter 35, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed

182 July 1, 2027.

183 ~~[(21)]~~ (22) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the

184 Land Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other

185 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.

186 ~~[(22)]~~ (23) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections

187 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

188 ~~[(23)]~~ (24) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or

189 waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.

190 ~~[(24)]~~ (25) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is

191 repealed July 1, 2027.

192 ~~[(25)]~~ (26) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is

193 repealed July 1, 2027.

194 ~~[(26)]~~ (27) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed

195 January 1, 2028.

196 ~~[(27)]~~ (28) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.

197 ~~[(28)]~~ (29) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission,

is repealed July 1, 2033.

~~[(29)]~~ (30) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.

~~[(30)]~~ (31) Section 53F-2-420, Intensive Services Special Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2024.

~~[(31)]~~ (32) Section 53F-5-214, Grant for professional learning, is repealed July 1, 2025.

~~[(32)]~~ (33) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation grant, is repealed July 1, 2025.

~~[(33)]~~ (34) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2025.

~~[(34)]~~ (35) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July 1, 2027.

~~[(35)]~~ (36) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2025.

~~[(36)]~~ (37) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2025.

~~[(37)]~~ (38) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.

Section 7. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.