

INTPERPRETIVE MEMO

Rule Interpretation

Medicaid Procedure Instruction

This interpretive memo remains effective statewide until it is specifically superseded—either by a subsequent interpretive memo or by a contradictory policy with a later date.

Please file in your manual facing the page indicated below.

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This memo: is new Replaces one dated 8/1/08

QUESTION: Can the cost of transportation to secure medical services be used to meet a spenddown?

ANSWER: Yes, the cost of transportation to secure medical services may be used to meet a spenddown, provided the Medicaid applicant or a member of his or her Medicaid assistance group would have been unable to secure the medical service without the transportation and he or she was responsible for the cost of the transportation. This includes the cost of transportation by a vehicle owned by a member of the Medicaid applicant's household.

No deduction is allowed for transportation provided free of charge to the Medicaid applicant and for which no future reimbursement is expected (i.e. no cost has been incurred by the applicant).

Prior authorization is not required.

For commercial transportation, such as taxi, bus, air plane, or car rental, use the actual cost when the applicant has a receipt or the usual or published fare when the applicant does not have a receipt.

For private transportation, such as use of a family-owned vehicle, or of some other non-commercial vehicle when the Medicaid assistance group member either was charged an agreed-upon fee or purchased fuel to use the vehicle, use the actual amount when the applicant documents the mileage, use the amounts in the following charts, or use the Map quest website (www.mapquest.com) to determine the actual mileage.

Refer to the U.S. General Services Administration website at www.gsa.gov/mileage to obtain the current mileage reimbursement rate to calculate transportation costs. (The department uses mileage reimbursement rates established by the federal General Services Administration (GSA). The rates may fluctuate periodically. No receipt or other verification of incurred expense is required.

A. Deductions for allowable medical transportation using a private vehicle:

1. The amount for each round-trip within the boundaries of the applicant's town of residence is \$4.00.
2. The deduction for each round-trip beyond the town of residence but within the ESD district serving that town varies depending on the town and district. Use the district tables below to determine the amount.