

**Medical Assistance Transportation Program
Operations Memorandum
General Operations
MATP OPS Memo # 03/2026-001**

Date: March 5, 2026

Subject: MATP Covered and Non-Covered Services

To: All County Administrators, Contracted Transit Agencies, and Brokers of the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)

From: Gwendolyn Zander, Director, Bureau of Managed Care Operations, Office of Medical Assistance Programs

Purpose:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform County Administrators, Contracted Transit Agencies, and Brokers who administer the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) (collectively referred to as "MATP Administrators" or "Administrators") of an updated listing of covered and non-covered services under MATP. This update is being provided to clarify that transportation to urgent care clinics for an MA compensable service is an MATP covered service, to clarify that non-covered services defined as Exceptional Transportation are referred to the Managed Care Organization (MCO) or County Assistance Office (CAO) in accordance with MATP OPS # 11/2022-001, and to incorporate the addition of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS) as an MATP covered service.

Background:

The MATP Standards and Guidelines (S&G) Exhibit 4 currently lists Medical Assistance (MA) compensable services that are covered for MATP transportation, while Section 6 lists examples of services that are not covered under MATP.

Transportation to Urgent Care Clinics

The MATP S&G requires MATP Administrators to provide non-emergency medical transportation for eligible MA recipients to MA compensable medical services. Current language in the S&G establishes requirements for scheduling trips provided for purposes of treating an urgent condition, referring to such trips as "urgent care trips." This terminology is often confused with urgent care clinics, also referred to as walk-in clinics, resulting in confusion regarding whether services provided in urgent care clinics are MATP covered services.

Exceptional Transportation

Exceptional Transportation is defined by 55 PA. Code § 2070.4 as, "Nonemergency transportation which is necessary under extraordinary medical circumstances. This type of transportation may require traveling great distances for medical treatment not normally provided through regional medical providers." This may include air travel, lodging, meals, and, if medically necessary, an attendant to accompany the eligible MA recipient. Expenses related to Exceptional Transportation are non-covered services through MATP.

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS)

Prior to the inclusion in the Medicaid State Plan, PRS had been available within Behavioral Health HealthChoices as an In Lieu of Service (ILOS). An In Lieu Of Service (ILOS) is defined in the HealthChoices agreement as "a cost effective, medically appropriate substitute service or setting that is offered to a member in accordance with 42 CFR § 438.3(e)(2) and all sub-regulatory federal guidance". Medicaid services covered under the ILOS authority are only available within the Behavioral Health HealthChoices Program and are not covered in MA FFS. As a result, PRS has been a non-covered service for MATP.

PRS is an evidence-based recovery-oriented rehabilitative service that is recommended by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of their professional practice under state law to reduce the disabling effects of a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder and restore the individual to live, learn, socialize and work in their community and to improve their physical and mental health.

PRS providers must be licensed by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and be enrolled in, and comply with, all requirements that govern participation in the MA Program. PRS may be delivered on an individual or group basis. Services may include, but are not limited to: Assessment, Goal Setting, Skill Development, Supports Development, Crisis Management, and Care Coordination. Refer to Attachment 3 for additional information.

Discussion:

Beginning January 1, 2026, with the approval of a State Plan Amendment (SPA), PRS is now included in the Pennsylvania Medicaid State Plan and shall be a covered service under MATP. Refer to Attachment 2 for additional information. An updated list of MATP covered and non-covered services shall be posted on the MATP website under the "Program Rules" section and made available to all MATP Administrators for their records and is included here as Attachment 1.

MATP Administrators must refer such Exceptional Transportation requests in accordance with Operations Memorandum # 11/2022-001. If a trip request contains Exceptional Transportation expenses along with components that are covered by MATP (e.g. mileage reimbursement when the MATP consumer has a vehicle or someone to drive them), the MATP Administrator may provide the MATP covered service while also referring the non-covered portion. The CAO will not reimburse a request for Exceptional Transportation if they do not have a referral from MATP on record.

Transportation to urgent care clinics is an MATP covered service. The MATP Administrator shall follow typical scheduling and verification procedures unless the request meets the Urgent Care Trip policy outlined in Section 10 of the MATP S&G. Section 10 of the MATP S&G describes urgent care as, "any illness or severe condition, which under reasonable standards of medical practice would be diagnosed and treated within a 24-hour period and if left untreated, could rapidly become a crisis or emergency situation."

Attachment 1 to this Memorandum provides a current listing of MATP covered and non-covered services. Administrators should refer to this attachment instead of Exhibit 4 to the S&G until the S&G is updated and reissued.

Next Steps:

Effective January 1, 2026, MATP Administrators shall begin providing eligible MATP trips to PRS providers.

MATP Administrators shall continue to refer requests for Exceptional Transportation in accordance with MATP Operations Memorandum # 11/2022-001. MATP Administrators should be aware the CAO will not reimburse or provide Exceptional Transportation without a referral from MATP.

MATP Administrators shall continue providing eligible MATP trips to urgent care clinics for MA compensable services.

Obsolete:

This Operations Memorandum renders MATP OPS #06-2011-023 obsolete.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – List of MATP Covered and Non-Covered Services

<http://matp.pa.gov/PDF/MATP%20Covered%20and%20Non-Covered%20Services.pdf>



MATP Covered and
Non-Covered Services

Attachment 2 – Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services State Plan Amendment 26-0002

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/2023-medicaid-state-plan/0013-attachment-3-1a-3-1b.pdf>



SPA 26-0002 CMS
Approved.pdf

Attachment 3 – PRS Bulletin

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/docs/publications/documents/forms-and-pubs-omhsas/2026-02-06-omhsas-26-01-prs-ma-fee-schedule-bulletin-final.pdf>



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