

# Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) Operations Memorandum MATP OPS # 05-2014-032

**Date:** May 23, 2014

**Subject:** MATP is the payer of last resort for Medical Assistance recipients age 65 and older using the Shared-Ride Program for MATP Seniors

**To:** All County Medical Assistance Transportation Program Offices

**From:** Tyrone E. Williams, Director, Division of Medical Assistance Transportation

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## **Purpose:**

To inform Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) Grantees that, effective July 1, 2014, MATP will only fund the approved percentage of the co-payment amount for Medical Assistance (MA) recipients age 65 and older who are eligible to use the Shared-Ride Program (SRP) to travel to a medical appointment.

## **Background:**

The SRP utilizes Pennsylvania Lottery proceeds to fund Shared-Ride transportation providers up to 85 percent of the general public fare for trips provided to senior citizens. The remaining 15 percent of the fare is the responsibility of the senior citizen.

Under Federal statute and regulations Medicaid is the payer of last resort; therefore, MATP Grantees are to assure that the Department is only charged trip costs that are not subsidized by other programs or covered under other available funding.

## **Discussion:**

Effective July 1, 2014, MATP Grantees shall follow the guidelines outlined below:

### 1. Initial Screening

- MA eligibility must continue to be verified prior to scheduling a trip.
- Evaluation of the least costly and most appropriate mode of transportation must continue to be performed.
- MA beneficiaries shall be referred to the SRP based on the following criteria:
  - Paratransit was determined to be the least costly and most appropriate mode of transportation.
  - The MA recipient is 65 years of age or older.
  - The requested trip meets the trip eligibility requirements outlined under Section 2 of this memorandum.

- Upon referral to SRP, MATP Grantees shall advise MATP senior citizens who have never used the program, that they will be required to register with SRP and have proof of age on file in order to ride.

## 2. Trip Eligibility

For the SRP, the Department will fund the percentage of trip costs that remain the responsibility of the MATP senior citizen (See below for fares in excess of \$50). The trip must be reserved, scheduled and dispatched consistent with general public service defined as the following:

- The trip was reserved at least one working day in advance of the trip.
- The trip is provided within the established geographic service area of the SRP Transportation provider.
- The trip is provided within the established days and hours of service of the SRP Transportation provider.
- The trip is provided at the established general public fare structure.

The Department recognizes that MA recipients sometimes require trips beyond the standard criteria provided under general public service. Trips that do not meet the above general public service definition shall be considered a MATP trip that shall be supported by an approved MATP rate (a rate established for trips outside of the SRP).

## 3. Escorts

The Department will continue to pay for medically necessary escorts, as set forth in the MATP Instructions and Requirements.

## 4. Fares over \$50

For Shared Ride Provider (SRP) eligible trips that exceed the General Public Shared Ride Fare of \$50.00, MATP will fund the remaining amount of the fare in excess of the maximum Pennsylvania Lottery reimbursement rate of \$42.50 (Fixed rate set by PennDOT).

Example: \$75.00 General Public Shared Ride Fare. Pennsylvania Lottery reimburses \$42.50 and MATP reimburses \$32.50.

## 5. Notices

MATP Grantees shall send the notice developed and provided by the Department to all current MATP seniors who **are not** registered with the SRP. This notice will explain the policy and explain that MATP seniors must have a signed SRP application on file with proof of age. The notices must be sent at least 30 days prior to implementation of this policy.

## 6. Reporting

Specific directions on reporting will be provided under a separate memorandum.

## Next Steps:

MATP Grantees shall prepare to comply with this policy when it becomes effective on July 1, 2014. This includes, but is not limited to, identifying the number of MA beneficiaries that will be affected by this policy, per Section 5. Notices, for the purposes of a beneficiary notice.

In addition, MATP county coordinators that **are not** SRP providers shall ensure:

- A subcontract is in place with the SRP provider to deliver SRP trips for MATP seniors.
- The SRP add the MATP Grantee as a 3rd party sponsor for MATP seniors using Shared-Ride transportation to a medical appointment.
- An agreement and process is in place with the SRP provider to account for the sharing of eligible SRP trip information and the invoicing of the approved percentage of the co-payment amount for SRP trips.

If you have any questions, please contact Tyrone Williams, at 717.346.3937 or via email at [tywilliams@pa.gov](mailto:tywilliams@pa.gov).