

Alaska Medicaid Transportation Guidelines

Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic

Condition (General)	Condition (specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Severe abdominal pain	Pain score of 7 or more in a scale of 1-10 and with other accompanying s/sx	ALS	Nausea, vomiting, fainting, pulsatile mass, distention, rigid tenderness on exam, guarding	A0427
Mild to Moderate Abdominal pain	Pain score of 6 or < in a scale of 1-10 and without any other s/sx	BLS		A0429
Abnormal skin signs	Presence of at least 2 abnormal skin signs and acute in onset	ALS	Diaphoresis, cyanosis, delayed cap refill, poor turgor, mottled	A0427
Abnormal skin signs	Brought about by other chronic condition	BLS	Diaphoresis, cyanosis, delayed cap refill, poor turgor, mottled	A0429
Abnormal vital signs (including abnormal pulse oximetry)	Acute onset; with or without symptoms 1. Hypertensive crisis- BP 200/120 or > 2. Shock-Systolic BP <90 PR >120 3. Respiratory Distress- RR of <10 or >20 4. Moderate/Severe hypoxia- Pulse ox of 90 and < 5. Severe alteration in Mentation - Glasgow Coma Score of 8 or < 6. Hyperpyrexia_ Temp. of = or >39.5 C/=or >103 F	ALS		A0427
Abnormal vital signs	Any abnormal vital signs that doesn't meet the ALS criteria	BLS		A0429
Allergic Reaction	Potentially life threatening	ALS	Other emergency conditions, rapid progression of symptoms prior hx of anaphylaxis wheezing, difficulty swallowing	A0427
Allergic Reaction	Other	BLS	Hives, itching rash, slow onset, local swelling redness erythema	A0429
Blood Glucose	Abnormal <80 or > 250 with symptoms	ALS	Altered mental status, vomiting, signs of dehydration	A0427
Blood Glucose	Abnormal <80 or > 250 without symptoms	BLS		A0429
Respiratory Arrest		ALS	Apnea, hypoventilation requiring ventilatory assistance and airway management	A0427
Difficulty Breathing	Acute onset with ALS medical care	ALS		A0427
Difficulty Breathing	Chronic condition and/or with BLS medical care	BLS		A0429
Cardiac Arrest - Resuscitation in progress		ALS		A0427

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Chest Pain (non-traumatic)		ALS	Dull, severe, crushing, substernal, epigastric, left sided chest pain associated with pain of the jaw, left arm, neck, back and nausea, vomiting, palpitations, pallor, diaphoresis, decreased LOC.	A0427
Choking Episode	Airway obstructed or partially obstructed	ALS		A0427
Cold Exposure	Potentially life or limb threatening	ALS	Temperature <95 F, deep frost bite, other emergency conditions.	A0427
Cold Exposure	Not life threatening: with symptoms	BLS	Shivering, superficial frost bite and other emergency conditions.	A0429
Altered Level of Consciousness (nontraumatic)		ALS	Acute condition with Glasgow score of 8 or <	A0427
Altered Level of Consciousness (nontraumatic)		BLS	Acute/chronic condition with Glasgow score of 9-12	A0429
Convulsions, Seizures	Active seizure upon EMS arrival or witnessed seizure by reliable source or post-ictal with other injuries or unstable vital signs	ALS		A0427
Convulsions, Seizures	Post-ictal with no other signs	BLS		A0429
Acute eye injuries including orbit or globe injuries		ALS		A0427
Eye symptoms, nontraumatic	Acute vision loss and/or severe pain	BLS		A0429
Non traumatic headache	With Neurologic distress condition or sudden severe onset (pain score of 7 or > in a scale of 1-10)	ALS		A0427
Non traumatic headache	Chronic condition/pain score of 6 or <	BLS		A0429
Cardiac symptoms other than chest pain	Atypical pain or other symptoms	ALS	Persistent nausea and vomiting, weakness, hiccups, pleuritic pain, feeling of impending doom, and other emergency conditions	A0427
Cardiac symptoms other than chest pain	Palpitations, skipped beats			A0429
Heat Exposure	Potentially life threatening	ALS	Hot and dry skin, temp > 105 neurologic distress, signs of heat stroke or heat exhaustion, orthostatic vitals, other emergency conditions.	A0427

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Heat Exposure	With symptoms	BLS	Muscle cramps, profuse sweating, fatigue	A0429
Hemorrhage	Severe (quantity) and potentially life-threatening	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant signs of shock or other emergency conditions. Severe, active , vaginal, rectal bleeding, hematemesis, hemmoptysis, epistaxis, active postsurgical bleeding.	A0427
Hemorrhage	Mild symptoms/not life threatening	BLS		A0429
Infectious disease requiring isolation procedures/public health risk.		BLS		A0429
Hazmat Exposure		ALS	Toxic fume or liquid exposure via inhalation, absorption, oral, radiation, smoke inhalation	A0427
Medical Device Failure	Life or limb threatening malfunction, failure, or complications	ALS	Malfunction of ventilator, internal pacemaker, internal defibrillator, implanted drug delivery device.	A0427
Medical Device Failure	Health maintenance device failures that cannot be resolved on location	BLS	Oxygen system supply malfunction, orthopedic device failure.	A0429
Neurologic Distress	Facial drooping, loss of vision, aphasia; difficulty swallowing; numbness, tingling extremity, stupor, delirium, confusion, hallucinations; paralysis, paresis (focal weakness); abnormal movements; vertigo; unsteady gait/balance; slurred speech, unable to speak.	ALS		A0427
Pain, severe not otherwise specified in this list	Acute onset, unable to ambulate or sit due to intensity of pain	ALS	Pain is the reason for the transport. Use severity scale (7-10 for severe pain) or patient receiving pharmacologic intervention	A0427
Mild to moderate Pain, not otherwise specified in this list	Acute/chronic onset with pain score of 6 or < in a scale of 1-10			A0429
Back pain-nontraumatic (T and/or LS)	Suspect cardiac or vascular etiology	ALS	Other emergency conditions, absence of or decreased leg pulses, pulsatile abdominal mass, severe tearing abdominal pain.	a0427
Back pain-nontraumatic (T and/or LS)	Sudden onset of neurologic symptoms	ALS	Neurologic distress list.	A0427
Back pain-nontraumatic (T and/or LS)	Acute or chronic condition without any other s/sx	BLS		A0429
Poisons, Ingested, injected, inhaled, absorbed	Adverse drug reaction, poison exposure by inhalation, injection or absorption.	ALS		A0427

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Severe alcohol Intoxication	Airway may or may not be at risk. Pharmacological intervention or cardiac monitoring may be needed. Decreased level of consciousness resulting or potentially resulting in airway compromise.	ALS		A0427
Alcohol intoxication or drug overdose (suspected).	For ETOH intoxication chief complaint: patient must be unconscious upon EMS arrival and/or with secondary injury and/or admitted in hospital	BLS		A0429
Pregnancy complication/childbirth/labor		ALS		A0427
Psychiatric/Behavioral	Abnormal mental status; drug withdrawal	ALS	Disoriented, DT's, withdrawal symptoms	A0427
Psychiatric/Behavioral	Threat to self or others, acute episode or exacerbation of paranoia, or disruptive behavior	BLS	Suicidal, homicidal or violent *For interfacility transport of Psych patients, provider should just be paid for an A0428(non-emergency transport) level of service	A0429
Sick Person-Fever	High Fever/Hyperpyrexia-Temp. of = or >39.5 C //or >103 F	ALS		A0427
Sick Person-Fever	Fever with associated symptoms (headache, stiff neck, etc.). Neurological changes.	BLS	Suspected spinal meningitis	A0429
Moderate to Severe Dehydration	Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, severe and incapacitation resulting in severe side effects of dehydration	ALS		A0427
Mild Dehydration	Symptoms of mild dehydration includes: flush face, extreme thirst, more than normal or unable to drink, dry/warm skin, cannot pass urine or reduced amounts, dark yellow, dizziness made worse when you are standing, weakness, cramping in the arms and legs, crying with few or no tears, sleepy or irritable, unwell, headaches, dry mouth, dry tongue with thick saliva	BLS		A0429
Unconscious/fainting or syncope episode witnessed by EMS		ALS		A0427
Near syncope, weakness or dizziness		BLS		A0429

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Emergency Conditions - Trauma

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Major Trauma	As defined by ACS Field Triage Decision Scheme. Trauma with one of the following Glasgow <14; systolic BP<90; RR <10 or > 29; all penetrating injuries to head, neck torso, extremities, proximal to elbow or knee; flail chest; combination of trauma and burns; pelvic fracture; 2 or more long bone fractures; open or depressed skull fracture; paralysis; severe mechanism of injury including; ejection, death or another passenger in same patient compartment, falls >20", 20" deformity in vehicle or 12" deformity of patient compartment. auto pedestrian/bike, pedestrian throw/run over motorcycle accident at speeds > 20 mph and rider separated from vehicle.	ALS	See condition specific column	A0427
Other Trauma	Need to monitor airway	ALS	Decreased LOC, bleeding into airway, trauma to head, face or neck	A0427
Other Trauma	Major bleeding	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant bleeding	A0427
Other Trauma	Suspected Fracture/dislocation requiring splinting/immobilization for transport.	BLS	Spinal, long bones, and joints, including shoulder, elbow, wrist hip, knee and ankle deformity of bone or joint	A0429
Other Trauma	Penetrating extremity injuries	BLS	Isolated with bleeding stopped and good CMS	A0429
Other Trauma	Amputation - digits	BLS		A0429
Other Trauma	Suspected internal, head, chest or abdominal injuries	ALS	Signs of closed head injury, open head injury, pneumothorax, hemothorax, abdominal bruising, positive abdominal signs on exam, internal bleeding criteria evisceration	A0427

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Condition (General)	Condition (specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Burns	Major -per American Burn Association (ABA)	ALS	Partial thickness burns>10% total body surface area (TBSA) involvement of face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joint; third degree burns, electrical, inhalation, burns with preexisting medical disorders; burns and trauma	A0427
Burns	Minor - per ABA	BLS	Other burns than listed above	A0429
Animal Bites, stings, envenomation	Potentially life or limb -threatening	ALS	Symptoms of specific envenomation, significant face, neck, trunk, and extremity involvement; other emergency conditions	A0427
Animal bites/stings/envenomation	Other	BLS	Local pain and swelling or special handling considerations (not related to obesity) and patient monitoring required	A0429
Lightning		ALS		A0427
Electrocution		ALS		A0427
Near Drowning	Airway compromised during near drowning event	ALS		A0427
Sexual assault	With major injuries	ALS	Reference codes 959.8, 958.2, 869.0/869.1	A0427
Sexual assault	With minor injuries	BLS		A0429

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Non- Emergency Conditions

Condition (General)	Condition (specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring required en route		ALS	Expectation monitoring is needed before and after transport	A0426
Advanced airway management		ALS	Ventilator dependent apnea monitor possible intubation needed, deep suctioning	A0426
Chemical Restraint		ALS		A0426
Interfacility transfer/basic transport that requires advance care/constant monitoring without the presence of Medivac crew/RN/MD/PA/NP 1.transport between 2 facilities with the same level of service (patient must be admitted to the receiving facility unless it's a psych patient or baby) 2. transport from higher to lower level facility *example IV meds given enroute		ALS		A0426
Suctioning required en route, need for titrated O2 therapy or IV fluid management.		BLS	Per transfer instructions	A0428
Airway control/positioning required en route		BLS	Per transfer instructions	A0428
Third party assistance/attendant required to apply administer or regulate or adjust oxygen en route		BLS	Does not apply to patient capable of self-administration of portable or home O2. Patient must require oxygen therapy and be so frail as to require assistance.	A0428
Patient safety: Danger to self or others - in restraints		BLS		A0428
Patient safety: Danger to self or others - monitoring		BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires monitoring for safety	A0428
Patient safety: Danger to self or others - seclusion (flight risk)		BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires attendant to assure patient does not try to exit the ambulance prematurely.	A0428
Patient safety: Risk of falling off wheelchair or stretcher while in motion (not related to obesity)	* if patient is severely obese >500 lbs	BLS	Patient's physical condition is such that patient risks injury during vehicle movement despite restraints. Indirect indicators include MDS criteria.	A0428
Special handling en route- isolation		BLS	Includes patients with communicable diseases or hazardous material exposure who must be isolated from public or whose medical condition must be protected from public exposure; surgical drainage complications.	A0428
Special handling en route to reduce pain - orthopedic device		BLS	Backboard, halotraction, use of pins and traction etc. Pain may be present	A0428
Special handling en route - positioning requires specialized handling.		BLS	Requires special handling to avoid further injury (such as with >grade 2 decubiti on buttocks). Generally does not apply to shorter transfers of <1 hour. Positioning in wheelchair or standard car seat inappropriate due to contractures or recent extremity fractures - post- op hip as an example.	A0428

A0427 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Criteria	A0426 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Non-Emergency Criteria	A0429 Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Criteria	A0428 Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Emergency Criteria
<p>1. When EMS provides advanced care/procedures which includes one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Administration of two or more different medications (does not apply to self administered medications) B. Endotracheal intubation C. Chest tubes D. Central lines E. Availability of blood products F. Pericardiocentesis G. Cricothyrotomy <p>2. And/or presence of one or more conditions which meet the criteria for ALS, as per guidelines</p>	<p>Basic transport in which EMS performs advanced care (ALS) without the presence of RN/Medivac crew/Provider.</p>	<p>1. When EMS provides basic stabilization care/procedures which includes one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Providing one medication B. Provision of peripheral intravenous lines/fluids C. Splinting of extremity and spine injuries D. Control of external hemorrhaging E. Provision of oxygen <p>2. And/or presence of one or more conditions that meet (only) criteria for BLS, as per guidelines</p>	<p>1. Non-emergent/basic transport in which EMS performs only minimal care (BLS) i.e. interfacility psych patient transport, inter-hospital baby transport etc.</p> <p>2. All transport in which an RN/Medivac crew/ Provider is on board the ambulance (who is basically doing the care for patient)</p>