



Painting the Picture

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide some very stringent laws concerning Medical Transportation Services. CMS will only pay for transportation where any other means of transportation would endanger the beneficiary's health. If the patient you are caring for could be transported by any other means, i.e. wheel chair van or other transportation services, your patient will not qualify for reimbursement by CMS. You as a provider have a responsibility to provide your billing staff and CMS the most thorough and complete documentation possible to justify the transport.

With the current cost savings measures implemented by CMS, MBI expects an increase in Medicare Audits. To protect you as a provider Palmetto GBA, Ohio's Medicare Contractor, has released an article entitled, "Documentation Tips for Medics: Paint the Picture." This document provides step by step instructions for EMS crews, whether a EMT-Paramedic, EMT-Intermediate, or EMT-Basic, on how to complete their documentation. It does not matter what form of documentation you use in the field and/or to report transports to your billing staff, crews should always use this tips to complete their patient care report (PCR).

Obviously, MBI places a great deal of emphasis on proper documentation of the care provided in the field. We have established a comprehensive documentation presentation to take your EMS crews through the documentation process from the dispatch of the call to the drop off of the patient to their destination. To learn more about required documentation or to schedule a documentation training session for your department, please contact Andy Cook at (937) 619-3003. If you wish to view the entire Palmetto, GBA document "Documentation Tips for Medics: Paint the Picture", please click [here](#) and your web browser will be directed to the Palmetto, GBA website