



Medicaid Issues in Wisconsin

Ambulance Services

Billing correct life support transportation service codes

What are life support services?

Wisconsin Medicaid (WI MA) defines [life support services](#) as any of the following:

- Care provided during transport by medically trained personnel such as nurses, paramedics, or emergency medical technicians.
- Use of medical equipment beyond that used in Specialized Medical Vehicles. See Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 105.39.
- Providing any oral/intravenous medication or oxygen using on-board equipment. Note: portable oxygen is not considered prescription medication when recipients take it without assistance.

What are basic life support (BLS) services?

Basic life support ([Wis. Stat. § 256.15\(1\)\(d\)](#)) means emergency medical care that is:

- Given to a sick, disabled, or injured individual.
- Provided before an individual is hospitalized or while the individual is moved between health care facilities.
- Based on signs, symptoms, or complaints from the recipient.
- Limited to services provided by a licensed emergency medical technician or a certified emergency medical responder.

What are advanced life support (ALS) services?

Advanced life support ([Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.04\(1\)](#)) is medical ambulance care that includes both:

- Basic life support procedures
- Invasive lifesaving procedures

Invasive lifesaving procedures require advanced knowledge and skills on equipment use and providing medication. Please refer to the [Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Scope of Practice](#) for more detail.

Emergency Services vs. Non-Emergency Services

Emergency services prevent the death of a recipient. They also protect against serious damage to the health of a recipient. The services deal with or guard against the worsening of a recipient's condition. WI MA only pays for emergency services that are covered. Both ALS and BLS services can each be provided under either emergency or non-emergency circumstances using the following procedure codes:

A0426: Advanced life support, non-emergency transport

A0427: Advanced life support, emergency transport

A0428: Basic life support, non-emergency transport

A0429: Basic life support, emergency transport

[Non-emergency](#) ambulance transportation can be provided when a recipient:

- Needs life support services.
- Needs transportation in a supine position.
- Suffers from an illness or injury that prevents them from traveling safely by any other means.

| 2020 Paid Claims | |
|------------------|----------------|
| A0426 | \$89,140.42 |
| A0427 | \$2,178,287.66 |
| A0428 | \$569,518.23 |
| A0429 | \$2,337,249.56 |

Providers should make sure that correct life support transportation codes are used when billing Wisconsin Medicaid.



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