

# Changes to Medicaid's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Benefit



## Background

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) is a service provided to Medicaid clients to and from covered non-emergency medical appointments when no other means of transportation is available. “Urgent” NEMT needs, such as a hospital discharge, are often not met in a timely manner, causing patients to wait hours before transportation arrives. In response, HB 18-1321 was enacted to increase transportation availability by making important changes to licensing requirements for Medicaid transportation providers. This law is especially significant for metro Denver hospitals, as it will allow facilities to select from a list of transportation providers as they work to coordinate rides for their patients.

## HB 18-1321: Efficient Administration Medicaid Transportation

This law requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to create and implement an efficient and cost-effective method to meet urgent transportation needs within the existing NEMT benefit. This method must include medical service provider and facility access to approved transportation providers and an efficient method for obtaining and paying for transportation services.

## What You Need to Know

- HCPF must implement the new urgent transportation services voucher program by Jan. 1, 2019.
- Urgent NEMT trips will be covered within the new voucher program and operated by Veyo rather than by the counties.
- Under the voucher program, medical service providers and facilities will have access to a list of approved transportation providers who have obtained the necessary background checks, drug tests, training and vehicle inspections.
- “Urgent” NEMT needs will be determined by HCPF, but include discharge from inpatient, emergency services and other urgent but nonemergency services.

## Additional Resources

- HB 18-1321: [Final Bill](#) and [Fiscal Note](#)
- HB 18-1321 took effect on May 30, 2018
- [Non-Emergent Medical Transportation Benefit Information](#)

For questions or more information, contact Amber Burkhart, CHA policy analyst, at 720.330.6028.

