

# Ground Emergency Medical Transportation

Supplemental Reimbursement Program

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# Agenda

- Challenges Facing the Fire Service
- What is GEMT?
- How did Washington get Involved?
- The Process to Implement the Program
- Impact on the Fire Service and the State



# What is GEMT

- Federally funded program that helps to cover the lost costs of a Medicaid patient – heart attack example. A cost recovery process
- It is an entitled program, making it difficult for the Feds to eliminate the program
- No negative impact to the citizens or the state – brings in revenue for the state
- Our hospitals have been using this program since 1996
  - Airlift NW started in 2010



# Who is Eligible to Participate

Public GEMT service providers that meet all of the following criteria:

- Provide fee-for-service (billing) ambulance transports to Washington Medicaid beneficiaries
- Enrolled as a Washington Medicaid provider with a National Provider Number from CMS for the period being claimed, and
- Owned or operated by the State, a city, a county, a city and county, fire protection district, other local governmental agency, or a federally recognized Indian Tribe



# Certified Public Expenditure (CPE)

- The Service Provider incurs costs for providing a Medicaid approved service
- Medicaid covers cost – heart attack example
- Payments are reconciled to actual reported costs
- State pays directly to department at 50% of uncompensated cost



# Costs

- Federal Matching Funds Program
  - Example – your department is due 100k. Must write a check to state for 100k plus state fees
  - Required by Feds, this process doesn't impact the state financially
  - State gets your money through CMS. You will get your matching money (100k) back plus the 100k that you are due for services. Also get the state fees back. It should be about a 60-90 day time period



# How Did Washington Get Involved in GEMT?

- November 2014, State Chief's had a meeting with consultants from California
- Program was implemented in California
- Central Pierce took the lead on the project Working in collaboration with the State Chief's, State Council, lobbyists and the consultants
- Keith Wright took the lead on implementing the GEMT program



# Process To Implement the Program

- Phase One
  - Bills went through session – HB 2007, SB 5840
  - Both made it through first process – HB passed 88-10, SB passed 40-7
  - Round two in the Bill process – Senate took HB 2007 to the floor and passed





The Governor Signed the Bill on April 29<sup>th</sup>!



# Process To Implement the Program

- The Bills were written very well – better than California
- HB 2007, SB 5840 covered all the necessary components



# Process To Implement the Program

## Phase Two Federal Authority

- Cost-based rates for GEMT requires federal approval of the new reimbursement methodology.
- Washington Health Care Authority has been tasked with Washington EMS agencies to submit a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to allow government agencies to receive an increased cost-based rates for ambulance transports.
- The Medicaid SPA was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).



# Process To Implement the Program

- Phase two
  - Work with AP Triton and the state to implement the program
    - Meetings with State Health Care Authority (HCA) to write the State Plan Amendment (SPA) and then negotiate it with Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS)
    - SPA defines what data is needed, when it is collected and all the rules for GEMT
  - Health Care Authority is the host agency





# Process to Implement the Program

- SPA was submitted to CMS in February of 2015
- HCA did receive questions from CMS and did reply with answers

# Process To Implement the Program

- Phase three
  - Educate departments across the state on the program
    - Had all day seminars across the state
  - Get them to participate



# Impact on the Fire Service in Washington

- Medicaid participation has gone up in Washington by 43% since the ACA came into place in 2010. Will continue to go up, causing more cost issues
- Hospitals can and are signing up more people for Medicaid. This growth will continue to be an issue for the Fire Service



# Impact on the Fire Service in Washington

- CARES (Community Assistance Resource Education Services) or Community Paramedicine
- A savings to CMS – today we transport a Medicaid patient, the hospital gets federal money (lots)
- Doing CARES and not transporting will keep these federal costs down, keeping more money in the entitlement program and support GEMT





# Impact on the Fire Service in Washington

- CPFR - 2018
  - 23,556 EMS incidents
  - 10,262 transports
  - Approximately 20% are Medicaid
- Across the State – was projected at \$100 million for departments
- State Revenue can be at or above \$20 million annually
- Private ambulance benefits from GEMT





# Participating Departments in Washington

- Currently there are about 125 departments doing the GEMT program in our State
- 2017 and 2018 the GEMT program brought in \$159 million in our State

# State Departments Doing GEMT

Arlington FD  
Benton County 2  
Benton County 4  
Camano Island FD  
Camas FD  
Central Kitsap  
Central Pierce  
Central Valley  
Ambulance  
Chelan Co.  
Hospital Dist. 2  
Chelan County  
Hospital Dist. 1  
Aberdeen  
Anacortes  
Bellevue

Bothell FD  
Buckley FD  
Clarkston FD  
Everett FD  
Hoquiam FD  
Kennewick Amb.  
Kirkland FD  
Lewiston FD  
Longview FD  
Lynnwood FD  
Montesano FD  
Moses Lake FD  
Ocean Shores FD  
Pasco FD  
Pullman FD  
Raymond FD

Sedro Woolley FD  
Sunnyside FD  
Tacoma FD  
Walla Walla FD  
Clallam Dist. 2  
Clallam Dist. 4  
Columbia Dist. 3  
Cowlitz FD 2  
Cowlitz FD 5  
Cowlitz FD 6  
Cowlitz/Lewis Co.  
FD 20  
Douglas  
Okanogan Dist. 15  
East Jefferson FD  
Enumclaw FD

Ferry County EMS  
1  
Garfield FD 1  
Grant County 8  
Grays Harbor 4  
Grays Harbor 2  
Grays Harbor 5  
Jefferson FD 2  
Jefferson FD 4  
King Co. FD 20  
King Co. FD 10  
Kitsap Co. FD 18  
Kitsap Co. FD 2  
Kittitas Co. FD 2  
Kittitas Public  
Hospital 2

Klickitat EMS 1  
Lake Chelan  
Community Hosp.  
Lewis Co. FD 15  
Lewis Co. FD 2  
Lewis Co. FD 3  
Lewis Co. FD 4  
Lewis Co. FD 5  
Lewis Co. FD 6  
Lewis Co. FD 1  
Lewis Co. FD 14  
Maple Valley Fire  
and Life Safety  
Marysville FD  
Mason Co. FD 3  
Mason Co. FD 4

# State Departments Doing GEMT

Mason Co. FD 5  
North Co. EMS  
North Co.  
Regional FD  
North Kitsap FD  
North Mason FA  
North Whatcom  
FD  
Pacific Co. FD 1  
Pierce Co. FD 16  
Pierce Co. FD 18  
Pierce Co. FD 21  
Pierce Co. FD 23  
Pierce Co. FD 3  
Pierce Co. FD 5

Pierce Co. FD 14  
Pierce Co. FD 17  
Port Angeles FD  
Prosser Memorial  
Hospital EMS  
Richland Fire  
Dept.  
San Juan Island  
EMS  
SE Thurston FD  
Shoreline FD  
Skagit Co. FD 13  
Skamania Co.  
Hosp. Dist. 1  
Snohomish FD 1

Snohomish FD 15  
Snohomish FD 17  
Snohomish FD 19  
Snohomish FD 21  
Snohomish FD 22  
Snohomish FD 26  
Snohomish FD 3  
Snohomish FD 5  
Snohomish FD 7  
Snohomish FD 8  
Snohomish FD 24  
Snohomish FD 4  
South Beach  
Amb. Service  
South Kitsap FR

South Pend  
Oreille FR  
South Snohomish  
Co. FR  
South Whatcom  
Fire Authority  
Steven's Co.  
Sherriff's Amb.  
Thurston Co. FD  
12  
Thurston Co. FD 5  
Thurston Co. FD 9  
Valley Regional  
Fire Authority

Walla Walla FD 4  
West Thurston  
Regional Fire  
Authority  
Whatcom FD 14  
Whatcom FD 7  
Whatcom Medic  
One  
Whidbey Island  
Public Hospital  
Dist.



# Departments Should Join The Program

- Departments that transport should join the GEMT Program
- It is worth signing up and adding money to your department

# Contact Info

- GEMT Email Address: [hcagementadmin@hca.wa.gov](mailto:hcagementadmin@hca.wa.gov)
- GEMT Website:
- <https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/programs-and-services/ground-emergency-medical-transportation-gemt>
- [tinyurl.com/hcagement](https://tinyurl.com/hcagement)
- Participation Agreement:
  - [https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/forms-and-publications?combine=GEMT+provider+participation&field\\_topic\\_tid=All&field\\_billers\\_document\\_type\\_value\\_1=All&sort=filename+ASC](https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/forms-and-publications?combine=GEMT+provider+participation&field_topic_tid=All&field_billers_document_type_value_1=All&sort=filename+ASC)

# Thank You

Questions?

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