

MEDICAID POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

Policy Analyst: Carly Todd

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Initial

Public Comment

Final

Brief description of policy:

The purpose of this policy is to allow authorization for return transfers of stabilized infants from Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) back to the Level I Well Born Nursery or Level II Special Care Nursery from which the infant was originally transferred.

Reason for policy (problem being addressed):

Currently, hospital transfers for beneficiary convenience is not considered. Transfers are granted only if the transfer is medically necessary and the care/treatment is not available at the transferring hospital. Establishing this transfer authorization will allow NICU patients to receive continued care within their community and decrease barriers for parents caused by an infant's lengthy stay in a NICU located far from home.

Budget implication:

budget neutral

will cost MDHHS \$ _____, and (select one) budgeted in current appropriation

will save MDHHS \$ _____

Is this policy change mandated per federal requirements?

No

Does policy have operational implications on other parts of MDHHS?

Yes, Program Review Division.

Does policy have operational implications on other departments?

No

Summary of input:

controversial

acceptable to most/all groups

limited public interest/comment

Supporting Documentation:

State Plan Amendment Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public Notice Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please provide status:	If yes, Submission Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	
Date: Approval	Date:

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT Michigan Department of Health and Human Services		
	Project Number: 2148-Hospital	Date: April 5, 2022

Comments Due: May 10, 2022

Proposed Effective Date: July 1, 2022

Direct Comments To: Carly Todd

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<p>Policy Subject: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Return Transfers</p> <p>Affected Programs: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan</p> <p>Distribution: Hospitals, Medicaid Health Plans</p> <p>Summary: This policy allows authorization for return transfers of stabilized infants from NICUs back to the Level I Well Born Nursery or Level II Special Care Nursery from which the patient was originally transferred.</p> <p>Purpose: Establishing this transfer authorization will allow NICU patients to receive continued care within their community and decrease barriers for parents caused by an infant's lengthy stay in a NICU located far from home. MDHHS will utilize existing hospital and ambulance transfer reimbursement methodology when prior authorization is granted.</p> <p>Cost Implications: Budget neutral</p> <p>Potential Hearings & Appeal Issues: Limited</p>

State Plan Amendment Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, date submitted:	Public Notice Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted date:
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Tribal Notification: Yes No - **Date:**

THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY RECEIVER

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> No Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	<input type="checkbox"/> See Comments Below
	<input type="checkbox"/> See Comments in Text

Signature:	Phone Number
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Signature Printed:

Bureau/Administration <i>(please print)</i>	Date
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Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral & Physical Health and Aging Services Administration

Distribution: Hospitals, Medicaid Health Plans

Issued: June 1, 2022 (Proposed)

Subject: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Return Transfers

Effective: July 1, 2022 (Proposed)

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

NICU Return Transfers

The purpose of this policy is to allow authorization for return transfers of stabilized infants from NICUs back to the Level I Well Born Nursery or Level II Special Care Nursery from which the infant was originally transferred. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will utilize existing hospital and ambulance transfer reimbursement methodology when prior authorization is granted. Establishing this transfer authorization will allow NICU patients to receive continued care within their community and decrease barriers for parents caused by an infant's lengthy stay in a NICU located far from home. Additionally, the expansion of transfer prior authorization described in this policy will support hospital NICU bed availability.

Prior Authorization Guidelines

A Prior Authorization Certification Evaluation Review (PACER) from the Health and Aging Services Administration Admissions and Certification Review Contractor (ACRC) is required for elective transfers between hospitals. NICU return transfer requests for continued medical care at a lower acuity hospital will be authorized if a neonatologist provides a written order to transfer to the originating hospital for bonding, teaching, and growth.

Newborns delivered within an emergency department and subsequently admitted to another facility are not considered a transfer and do not require a PACER.

Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs)

MHPs reimburse hospitals according to the terms of the contract between the MHP and the hospital. MHPs under contract to reimburse hospitals using Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) payment methodology are subject to alignment with MDHHS payment policies. Out-of-network and non-contracted hospital providers are reimbursed by the MHPs in accordance with Medicaid FFS payment methodology and rates in effect on the date of service. Clinical disagreements between hospitals and MHPs should be addressed using existing resolution processes.