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1. Introduction to NEMT
2. Current trends and challenges in NEMT
3. Current threats to NEMT
4. Innovating to Address Challenges in NEMT
1. Introduction to NEMT
Legal Landscape

Federal

• Mandatory benefit under longstanding regulation

State

• Administration of NEMT
  ○ Limiting
  ○ Managing
**IMPACT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Impact on Care**

- **Routine and preventive care**
- **Chronic conditions**
  - Ongoing management
  - Screening and diagnosis

*Figure 1: Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Trips in 32 States, by Treatment Type (Nov. 2015 year-to-date)*

SOURCE: LogisticsCare Solutions, Medicaid Gross Trips by Treatment Type (Nov. 2015) (data available for 32 states).
Impact on Cost

• NEMT is a cost-effective or cost-saving approach to improving patient care

• Chronic conditions
  o Preventing late, high-cost interventions
  o Ex: providing NEMT to patients with asthma could result in cost savings of $333 per patient per year

• Preventive care
  o Decreased incidence of high-cost chronic conditions
2. Current trends and challenges in NEMT
State models

• **Fee-for-Service**: contract with independent transportation provider to provide NEMT at set reimbursement rate

• **Managed Care**: contract and delegate administration of NEMT to managed care organizations (MCOs)

• **Public Transit**: patients receive voucher or reimbursement for using public transportation to reach appointments

• **Brokerage Model**: contract with private companies or state agencies to manage NEMT services
ONGOING CHALLENGES

Challenges

• Customer Service
  o Scheduling
  o Access
  o Driver quality
  o Program restrictions

• Fraud and Abuse
  o Data Collection
  o Oversight
3. Current threats to NEMT
SECTION 1115 WAIVER

Historical use
- Expansion of access to Medicaid

Current trends in use
- Restriction of access to Medicaid
  - Work Requirements
  - Lock-outs
  - NEMT

Trump Administration

• Plans to change NEMT from a mandatory to optional benefit
  o Proposed Rule originally anticipated May 2019
  o Recently pushed back to December 2021
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONSE

Public Hearings
- State-level

Written Comments
- State level
- Federal level
4. Innovating to Address Challenges
State Innovations

• Policy approaches
  o Capitated payment model
  o Contract design
  o Expanding driver networks

• Transportation Network Companies (TNC)

• State Coordinating Councils
**ADDITIONAL OPTIONS**

**Other Transportation Coverage**

- Medicaid 1115 Waivers
- Medicare
  - **Original**: Ambulance Services, New ET3 Pilot
  - **Medicare Advantage**: Transportation as a Supplemental Benefit
- Health Care Providers
  - New flexibility under federal laws

**Volunteer Transportation Networks**

- Example: *A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation*
Health in All Policies

• Promote health, equity, and sustainability
• Support intersectoral collaboration
• Benefit multiple partners
• Engage stakeholders
• Create structural or procedural change

Source: APHA
Telehealth

• Communication and information technologies used to support long-distance health care
  o Reduce the need for travel
  o Increase capacity of local care providers

  o Example: University of Hawai‘i

Source: Getty Images
Community Health Workers (CHWs)

• Trained staff who bridge the communication and cultural gaps common between low-income, underserved patients and clinical staff

• Overcoming transportation barriers
  o Work with patients in their homes and communities
  o Help patients navigate health and social services

  o Example: Marshall University
Mobile Health Clinics

- **Customized vehicles** that travel to communities and provide health care services
  - Social determinants of health
  - Rural or vulnerable populations

- **Example:** Levine Cancer Institute Mobile Lung Computed Tomography Unit

Source: The Cancer Letter Inc.