



Elevating EMS agencies
since 2011

2022 Quarter 2 Newsletter

Supplemental Payment Programs Offer Additional EMS Reimbursement

UPL is the program available to private operators and GEMT is the program for municipalities or public agencies. These programs stem from CMS policies which allow states to establish supplemental payment methods to help make up the difference between the cost of delivering EMS services and the reimbursement offered by Medicaid. Many states already have deployed successful UPL and GEMT programs providing models that can be copied, avoided, or improved upon. There are a number of very talented people across Montana working towards bringing EMS agencies information about these programs, gaining consensus and support for the programs, and ultimately working with the state and legislature to codify the supplemental payments into law.

Sequestration payment reductions from Medicare are back. After a pause during COVID, the legislated reduction of Medicare payments will resume in phased fashion. Barring an act of Congress, transports with dates of service April 1 through June 30 will see a 1% reduction applied to the payments and the dates of service thereafter will revert to the full 2% sequestration reduction amount.

PINTLER BILLING SERVICES IS NOW A MEMBER OF AAA (THE AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION). WE HOPE TO PASS ON SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS RELATIONSHIP TO ALL OF YOU, INCLUDING INFORMATION REGARDING THE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT, STAFF RETENTION STRATEGIES, AND MORE.

Ambulance Ground Transport: Comparative Billing Report in April

In late April, CMS issued a Comparative Billing Report (CBR) on Medicare Part B claims for ambulance ground transport. Use the data-driven report to compare your billing practices with those of peers in your state and across the nation.

CBR's are not publicly available, and will be tailored to the data of your agency. You will only receive these if CMS has identified your agency as one that reports transports out of the averages for your area. This can happen for many reasons, so it is not necessarily a cause for concern. If you've received a CBR and have questions, please don't hesitate to call and discuss it with us!

EMS SPOTLIGHT: NICHOLAS BRADFORD

Agency: Logan Health EMS, Logan Health Cut Bank **Years of Service:** 25 **Certification/Education:** Certified Flight Registered Nurse, Aerospace Medical Technician, Advanced EMT I-99 Endorsement, MT Lead Instructor, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Advanced Burn Life Support, Tactical Combat Casualty Care Instructor



Brief Background: I began working in public service with a rural volunteer ambulance service in Ohio prior to graduating high school. In 1997 I entered the Air Force and began a professional career that spanned various roles that primarily focused on initial response to incidents and acute care. After transitioning into the Air National Guard, I began working in civilian prehospital care, disaster response, firefighting, and administration. I have worked out of our Cut Bank station for almost ten years as the assistant chief and care provider. Since our transition to Logan Health Cut Bank I have remained in an administrative position with EMS, am on call for our critical access hospital, and we remain the only ground based critical care transport team from East Glacier to Havre. I am currently deployed to my fourth conflict zone.

Highlight or favorite aspect of working in EMS: Over the last several years, I have developed a great appreciation for the people along our section of the High Line. The number of heartfelt thankyou's I have received have become countless. While our workload here can be quite difficult at times, there is never a doubt that each day we are impacting the lives of our neighbors.

MEMSA

This EMS advocacy organization has experienced a revitalization in the last several months, and it seems the time is right for a joint effort of EMS professionals across Montana cohesively supporting this field. The goals of MEMSA are to advocate for EMS at a legislative level by literally maintaining a seat at the table (seating representatives on different committees) and educating and informing elected officials about EMS priorities and the state and legislature can support emergency response agencies and professionals. Stay tuned for more updates and exciting information to come.

EMS Week was May 15-21
Check us out on Instagram to see
the pictures of our clients in
honor of our incredible clients!
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*"Save one life, you're a hero.
Save multiple lives, you're an EMT."*



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