

- c. For crossover claims the allowable payment to the provider is determined not by the Alabama Medicaid Agency but by Medicare. The Alabama Medicaid Agency will pay no more than the part of the allowable payment not paid by Medicare and other insurers who are obligated to pay part of the claim.

3. Physicians and Other Practitioners

Effective Date: 02/01/05

- a. A statewide maximum payment will be calculated for each service designated by a procedure code recognized by the Alabama Medicaid Agency as designating a covered service. To determine payments for procedure codes without an established Medicaid rate, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will base rates on 1) Medicare, if not available then 2) commercial rate, or if not available 3) a percent of the charge. Payment rates are the same for both public and private providers except as noted below.
 1. In order to increase provider participation and improve access to care, providers of all specialties, both public and private, in rural counties will be paid an enhanced rate for office visits and hospital visits. Providers in rural counties whose specialty is OB/GYN, Family Practice, General Practice or Pediatrics, will be paid an enhanced rate for global delivery codes and delivery only codes.
 2. Physician Access Payments: In order to maintain adequate access to specialty faculty physician (all specialties except general practice, family practice, and general pediatrics) services as required by 42 USC 1396(a)(30) and 42 CFR 447.204, enhanced rates will be paid to teaching physicians who enter into an agreement with the Alabama Medicaid Agency to guarantee access to teaching physician services for Medicaid recipients. These rates, in the aggregate, will not exceed the state's average commercial rate. Teaching physicians are defined as doctors of medicine or osteopathy employed by or under contract with (a) a medical school that is part of the public university system (The University of Alabama at Birmingham and The University of South Alabama) or (b) a children's hospital healthcare system which meets the criteria and receives funding under Section 340E(a) of the U.S. Public Health Service Act (42 USC 256e), and which operates and maintains a state license for specialty pediatric beds.

In order to establish the rates for teaching physicians, the rates paid by the top five commercial insurance companies in Alabama were obtained. The State calculated the average commercial rate for each procedure code and determined the total expenditures the State would have made during a twelve-month period using the average rates. Then the State calculated total expenditures the State would have made during the same period using rates equal to 134.5% of Medicare rates. Since total expenditures using 134.5% of Medicare were less than the expenditures using the average commercial rates, the State will pay enhanced rates equal to 134.5% of Medicare to teaching physicians. Calculated reimbursement rates for all numeric procedure codes will be rounded to the nearest dollar. Rates for procedure codes starting with an alphabetic character will be rounded to the nearest penny. Procedure codes not recognized by Medicare are ineligible for the enhanced payment.

Effective Date: 04/01/90

- b. For Medicare crossover claims, refer to item 19 in this attachment.

Effective Date: 07/01/87

- c. Medicaid recipients are required to pay and providers are required to collect designated copayments for services, supplies, appliances, and equipment, except for the designated exemptions. The allowable copayment amount shall be credited against the Medicaid payment to the providers according to the copayment table in Attachment 4.18-A. Designated exemptions include services provided for pregnancy, nursing home residents, inpatient hospital visits, recipients under 18 years of age, emergencies, surgery fees, physical therapy, and family planning.

Effective Date: 06/01/90

- d. Payment to Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists will not exceed 85% of the maximum allowable rate paid to physicians for providing the same service.

Effective Date: 04/01/98

- e. Payment to physician-employed Physician Assistants and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners will not exceed 85% of the maximum allowable rate paid to physicians for providing the same service except for injectables and laboratory procedure. Injectable and Laboratory procedures are reimbursed at 100% of the amount paid to physicians.