

WAC 182-546-1500 Coverage for nonemergency air ambulance transportation. (1) The medical assistance administration (MAA) pays for a nonemergency air ambulance transport only when the transport is prior authorized by MAA.

(2) MAA authorizes a nonemergency air ambulance transport only when the following conditions are met:

(a) The client's destination is an acute care hospital or approved rehabilitation facility; and

(b) The client's physical or medical condition is such that travel by any other means endangers the client's health; or

(c) Air ambulance is less costly than ground ambulance under the circumstances.

(3) MAA requires providers to thoroughly document the circumstances requiring a nonemergency air ambulance transport. The medical justification must be submitted to MAA prior to transport and must be documented in the client's medical record and ambulance trip report. Documentation must include adequate descriptions of the severity and complexity of the client's condition at the time of transportation.

[WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-546-1500, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.057, 74.08.090, and 74.09.510. WSR 04-17-118, § 388-546-1500, filed 8/17/04, effective 9/17/04.]