

Essential Transportation Questions and Answers

The following questions and answers were written by Missouri Medicaid and can be found on the following website: <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/hcbs/pdf/pcq.pdf>

The information below is from the October 2019 version. Please refer to the above mentioned webpage to ensure you are reading the most up to date information. Advantage Consumer Directed Services will attempt to update our materials however we are not to be held responsible or liable for outdated information found on this page.

1. Is transporting to reading classes for reading comprehension allowable?

A. Yes, this is considered “continuing education” and is allowable under Essential Transportation.

2. Is transporting for events such as: visiting another individual’s home for social visits, or visiting someone in the hospital or a church/church function allowable?

A. Social activities are not appropriate as they do not meet the definition of essential transportation. This does not mean that the attendant cannot take them to the destination and deliver appropriate and authorized personal care tasks while the participant is in that location. The transportation may not be reimbursable, but the personal care is.

3. Is transporting to a funeral home to make funeral arrangements for someone else allowable?

A. If it is necessary to go to the funeral home to make arrangements for a relative whom you are responsible for and no other transportation options are available, then this would be an essential transportation need and thus allowable.

4. Is transporting to an appointment to have blood drawn for lab work (when Medicaid does not pay for the service and it is performed separately from a doctor visit) allowable?

A. Trips for medical appointments or health oriented appointments (lab draws, chiropractor, etc.) are always considered to be appropriate tasks for Essential Transportation as long as it is not a NonEmergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) covered trip.

5. If a participant is wheelchair bound and unable to transfer to and from or assist in placing their wheelchair in the vehicle without assistance, and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) is not assisting, can Essential Transportation be authorized?

A. No, the participant should submit a complaint through MO HealthNet regarding this issue. Problems with an NEMT provided service is not justification to authorize the service through

Consumer Directed Services (CDS).

6. Is transporting to a storage unit or facility for the purpose of relocating possessions from a home as ordered by the participant's landlord or owner of property or face eviction allowable?

A. Yes, this would be considered 'essential' since removing the items is necessary so the participant can remain in the home.

7. Can a participant have a family member or friend ride along?

A. This is a decision between the vendor, attendant, and consumer. DHSS does not have a regulation prohibiting this practice.

8. If two participants live in same household and both are authorized for transportation and prefer to conduct joint shopping for groceries, can the aide document the first 30 minutes for one participant and second half hour for the second participant, in order to save the aide from having to make two trips to the store?

A. Yes, it is appropriate to document this way as long as the times do not overlap one another and the participant's needs are being met.

9. Is transporting to physical therapy sessions (including aquatic) allowable?

A. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) must be utilized prior to Consumer Directed Services (CDS) transportation. If the participant discovers the physical therapy does not qualify for NEMT, the attendant can transport the participant to and from the physical therapy appointment. However, while the participant is with the physical therapist, any time the attendant spends waiting for the participant to complete the therapy session cannot be reimbursed.

10. Can Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) providers transport the participant and the participants Consumer Directed Services (CDS) attendant as a "rider" for attendance and assistance needed during medical appointments (mobility concerns of participant)? Will the attendant need to pay for their transport spot? If not, who is responsible for the cost?

A. The NEMT broker would be able to take the participant and an additional rider. It would need to be conveyed that the participant would need the additional rider at the time the reservation is made. The participant would be the only one that would be asked to pay copay for the transportation and not the additional rider.

11. If the participant has a physician order for water aerobics/swimming with Passive Range of Motion (PROM) each week and needs a ride to and from the swimming classes, can it be authorized

under essential transportation?

A. Passive Range of Motion is an allowable task under Consumer Directed Services (CDS) and if the water aerobics/swimming course is taught by a trained therapist, then it is allowable. However, if they are not trained in that type of therapy then the participant would need to find other means of transportation to and from the class. Also, the vendor would need to verify this would not be covered under Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).

12. Are attendants allowed to run errands (grocery shopping, pharmacy, etc.) on behalf of the participant by means of public bus transportation?

A. There is nothing in statute or regulation which prohibits this or requires the use of the attendant's personal vehicle. In some instances, a taxi has been used.

13. Can a Consumer Directed Services (CDS) attendant complete all necessary shopping/errands for the participant without the participant accompanying them?

A. Yes, Policy 3.25 Personal Care Assistance – State Plan (Consumer Directed Services Model), states that all essential shopping/errands (whether or not the participant is with the CDS attendant) are covered services.

14. Can time spent driving the participant to and from their place of employment be authorized for transportation?

A. Yes, Policy 3.25 Personal Care Assistance – State Plan (Consumer Directed Services Model), defines Essential Transportation as all essential shopping/errands (whether or not the participant is with the CDS attendant), medical appointments not covered under the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) program, school, or employment, etc