

Alaska Medicaid
Emergent and Non-Emergent ALS and BLS Criteria
 Effective July 1, 2012

A0426 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Non-Emergent Criteria	A0427 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergent Criteria	A0428 Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Emergency Criteria	A0429 Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Criteria	A0433 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Level II Criteria
<p>Planned inter-facility transport or routine transport by ALS personnel and includes at least one of the following ALS interventions. Note: The determination for this level of service is based upon ALS intervention, and not diagnosis.</p> <p>Chemical restraint <i>Example: a psychiatric patient is transferred from a psychiatric facility and was given an anti-anxiety drug en route by EMS due to uncontrolled behavior(s).</i></p> <p>Cardiac Hemodynamic Monitoring <i>Example: A patient with heart failure is transported from one hospital to another and EMS provides hemodynamic monitoring to include BP, clinically necessary cardiac output, cardiac index or pulmonary artery wedge pressures.</i></p> <p>Advanced Airway Management <i>Example: EMS transports a ventilator dependent patient to appointment.</i></p> <p>Administration of two or more medications <i>Example: During transfer from one hospital to another, an MI patient experiences another MI, EMS administers medications to treat the condition.</i></p>	<p>An immediate response is one in which the ambulance provider begins as quickly as possible to take the steps necessary to respond to the call.</p> <p>When EMS provides advanced care or procedures which include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of two or more different medications (does not apply to self-administered medication) - Endotracheal intubation - Chest Tubes - Central Lines - Administration of blood products - Periodic occlusion - Cricothyrotomy <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Presence of one or more of the following conditions which meet ALS criteria:</p> <p>Upon transfer from a medivac to ground transport, services provided by the ground ambulance crew meeting the ALS criteria will be reimbursed at the ALS rate.</p>	<p>The provision of medically necessary supplies and services. The ambulance must be staffed by an individual who is qualified in accordance with State and local laws as an emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-Basic).</p> <p>Inter-facility or routine transport by EMS personnel only for medical care (i.e., the determination of this level of service is based on the care of the patient, not diagnosis).</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A baby transferred from one hospital to another and only oxygen support is required - A psychiatric patient is transported to the ER for care - All medivac transports in which the patient was transported from one facility to another and any medically necessary care provided 	<p>An immediate response is one in which the ambulance provider begins as quickly as possible to take steps necessary to respond a call.</p> <p>EMS provides basic stabilization care or procedures that include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of medications (Does not apply to self-administered medication) - Provision of peripheral intravenous line/fluids - Splinting of extremity and spine injuries - Provision of oxygen <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Presence of one or more conditions that meet the criteria for ALS in the attached guideline.</p> <p>On transport from a medivac to ground transport, services provided by the ground ambulance crew meeting the BLS criteria will be reimbursed at the BLS rate.</p>	<p>Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and provision of medically necessary supplies and services including:</p> <p>At least three separate administrations of one or more medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion excluding crystalloid hypotonic, isotonic and hypertonic fluids including dextrose, normal saline, or Ringer's lactate (does not apply to self-administered medication); or transportation, medically necessary supplies and services and;</p> <p>Ground ambulance transportation and the provision of at least one of the following ALS II procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manual fiberoptic intubation - Endotracheal intubation - Central venous line - Chest decompression - Surgical airway - Intraosseous line <p>NOTE: the monitoring and maintenance of an endotracheal tube that was previously inserted prior to the transport also qualifies as an ALS II procedure.</p> <p>Fractional administration of a single dose does not qualify for ALS II payment.</p>

Obsolete
 Under Revision

**Alaska Medicaid
Ground Ambulance Criteria
Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic**

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Severe abdominal pain	With other signs or symptoms	ALS	Nausea, vomiting, fainting, pulsatile mass, distention, rigid, tenderness on exam, guarding.	A0427/A0433
Abdominal pain	Without other signs or symptoms	BLS		A0429
Abnormal cardiac rhythm/Cardiac dysrhythmia.	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Bradycardia, junctional and ventricular blocks, non-sinus tachycardias, PVC's >6, bi- and trigeminy, ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, atrial flutter, PEA, asystole, AICD/AED	A0427/A0433
Abnormal skin signs		ALS	Diaphoresis, cyanosis, delayed cap refill, poor turgor, mottled	A0427/A0433
Abnormal vital signs (includes abnormal pulse oximetry)	With or without symptoms.	ALS		A0427/A0433
Allergic reaction	Partially obstructed airway	ALS	With emphysematous nodules, rapid progression of symptoms, prior history of anaphylaxis, wheezing, difficulty swallowing	A0427/A0433
Allergic reaction	Other	BLS	Pruritus, hives, rash, low or no local swelling, conjunctive erythema	A0429
Blood glucose	Abnormal <80 or >250, with symptoms.	ALS	Altered mental status, vomiting, signs of dehydration.	A0427/A0433
Respiratory arrest		ALS	Apnea, hypoventilation requiring ventilatory assistance and airway management.	A0427/A0433
Difficulty breathing		ALS		A0427/A0433
Cardiac arrest – resuscitation in progress		ALS		A0427/A0433
Chest pain (non-traumatic)		ALS	Dull, severe, crushing, substernal, epigastric, left sided chest pain associated with pain of the jaw, left arm, neck, back, and nausea, vomiting, palpitations, pallor, diaphoresis, decreased LOC.	A0427/A0433
Choking episode	Airway obstructed or partially obstructed	ALS		A0427/A0433

Obsolete
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**Alaska Medicaid
Ground Ambulance Criteria
Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic**

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Cold exposure	Potentially life or limb threatening	ALS	Temperature < 95F, deep frost bite, other emergency conditions.	A0427/A0433
Cold exposure	With symptoms	BLS	Shivering, superficial frost bite, and other emergency conditions	A0429
Altered level of consciousness (nontraumatic)		ALS	Acute condition with Glasgow Coma Scale < 15.	A0427/A0433
Convulsions, seizures	Seizing, immediate post-seizure, postictal, or at risk of seizure and requires medical monitoring/observation.	ALS		A0427/A0433
Eye symptoms, non-traumatic	Acute vision loss and/or severe pain	BLS		A0429
Non-traumatic headache	With neurologic distress conditions or sudden severe	ALS		A0427/A0433
Cardiac symptoms other than chest pain	Palpitation, skipped beats	BLS		A0472/A0433
Heat exposure	Potentially life threatening	ALS		A0472/A0433
Heat exposure	With symptoms	BLS		A0429
Hemorrhage	Severe (quantity) and potentially life-threatening	ALS		A0472/A0433
Infectious diseases requiring isolation procedure / public health risk.		BLS		A0429
Hazmat exposure		ALS	Toxic fume or liquid exposure via inhalation, absorption, oral, radiation, smoke inhalation	A0472/A0433
Medical device failure	Life or limb threatening malfunction, failure, or complication	ALS	Malfunction of ventilator, internal pacemaker, internal defibrillator, implanted drug delivery service.	A0472/A0433
Medical device failure	Health maintenance device failures that cannot be resolved on location	BLS	Oxygen system supply malfunction, orthopedic device failure.	A0429

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**Alaska Medicaid
Ground Ambulance Criteria
Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic**

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Neurologic distress	Facial drooping; loss of vision; aphasia; difficulty swallowing; numbness, tingling extremity; stupor, delirium, confusion, hallucinations; paralysis, paresis (focal weakness); abnormal movements; vertigo; unsteady gait/ balance; slurred speech, unable to speak	ALS		A0472/A0433
Pain, severe not otherwise specified in this list.	Acute onset, unable to ambulate or sit due to intensity of pain.	ALS	Pain is the reason for the transport. Use severity scale (7-10 for severe pain) or patient receiving pharmacologic intervention.	A0472/A0433
Back pain – non-traumatic (T and/or LS).	Suspect cardiac or vascular etiology	ALS	Other emergency conditions, absence of or decreased leg	A0472/A0433
Back pain – non-traumatic (T and/or LS).	Sudden onset of new neurologic symptoms.	ALS	Neurologic distress list	A0472/A0433
Poisons, ingested, injected, inhaled, absorbed	Adverse drug reaction, poison exposure by inhalation, injection or absorption	ALS		A0472/A0433
Alcohol intoxication or drug overdose (suspected).	Unable to care for self and unable to ambulate. No airway compromise	BLS		A0429
Severe alcohol intoxication	Airway may or may not be at risk. Pharmacological intervention or cardiac monitoring may be needed. Decreased level of consciousness resulting or potentially resulting in airway compromise.	ALS		A0472/A0433
Post-operative procedure complications.	Major wound dehiscence, evisceration, or requires special handling for transport.	BLS	Non-life threatening	A0429
Pregnancy complication/childbirth/labor		ALS		A0472/A0433
Psychiatric/Behavioral	Abnormal mental status; drug withdrawal.	ALS	Disoriented, DTs, withdrawal symptoms	A0472/A0433
Psychiatric/Behavioral	Threat to self or others, acute episode or exacerbation of paranoia, or disruptive behavior	BLS	Suicidal, homicidal, or violent.	A0429

Obsolete

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Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic**

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Sick person – fever	Fever with associated symptoms (headache, stiff neck, etc.). Neurological changes.	BLS	Suspected spinal meningitis.	A0429
Severe dehydration	Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, severe and incapacitating resulting in severe side effects of dehydration	ALS		A0472/A0433
Unconscious, fainting, syncope, near syncope, weakness, or dizziness.	Transient unconscious episode or found unconscious. Acute episode or exacerbation.	ALS		A0472/A0433

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Alaska Medicaid
Ground Ambulance Criteria
Emergency Conditions - Trauma

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Major trauma	As defined by ACS Field Triage Decision Scheme. Trauma with one of the following: Glasgow <14; systolic BP<90; RR<10 or >29; all penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, extremities proximal to elbow or knee; flail chest; combination of trauma and burns; pelvic fracture; or more than one long bone fractures open or depressed; skull fracture; or any severe mechanism of injury including: ejection, death of another passenger in same patient compartment, falls >20', 20" deformity in vehicle or 12" deformity of patient compartment; or pedestrian/bike, pedestrian through car door, motorcycle accident at speeds >20 mph and rider separated from vehicle.	ALS	See "Condition (Specific)" column	A0427/A0433
Other trauma	Need to monitor or maintain airway	ALS	Decreased LOC, bleeding into airway, trauma to head, face or neck.	A0427/A0433
Other trauma	Major bleeding	ALS	Uncontrolled or significant bleeding.	A0427/A0433

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Alaska Medicaid
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Emergency Conditions - Trauma

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Other trauma	Suspected fracture/dislocation requiring splinting/immobilization for transport.	BLS	Spinal, long bones, and joints including shoulder elbow, wrist, hip, knee and ankle, deformity of bone or joint.	A0429
Other trauma	Penetrating extremity injury	BLS	Uncontrolled bleeding stopped and good CSM.	A0429
Other trauma	Amputation – digits	BLS		A0429
Other trauma	Amputation – all other	ALS		A0427/A0433
Other trauma	Suspected internal, head, chest, or abdominal injuries.	ALS	Signs of closed head injury, open head injury, one not max, tachycardia, abdominal bloating, positive abdominal signs on exam, internal bleeding criteria, evisceration.	A0427/A0433

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Alaska Medicaid
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Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Burns	Major – per American Burn Association (ABA)	ALS	Partial thickness burns > 10% total body surface area (TBSA); involvement of face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints; third degree burns; electrical; chemical inhalation; burns with pre-existing medical conditions; burns and trauma	A0429
Burns	Minor – per ABA	BLS	Other burns than listed above.	A0429
Animal bites, stings, venom	Potentially life or limb-threatening	BLS	Symptoms specific to envenomation, significant face, neck, chest, and extremity involvement, other emergency conditions.	A0427/A0433
Animal bites/sting/envenomation	Other	BLS	Local pain and swelling or special handling considerations (not related to obesity) and patient monitoring required.	A0429

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Alaska Medicaid
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Emergency Conditions - Trauma

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Lightning		ALS		A0427/A0433
Electrocution		ALS		A0427/A0433
Near drowning	Any condition related to a near drowning event	ALS		A0427/A0433
Eye injuries	Acute vision loss or blurring, severe pain or chemical exposure, penetrating, severe lid laceration	BLS		A0429
Sexual assault	With major injuries	ALS	Reference codes 9599, 9602, 869, 865	A0427/A0433
Sexual assault	With minor or no injuries	BLS		A0429

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Non-Emergency Conditions

Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring required en route		ALS	Expectation monitoring is needed before and after transport.	A0426
Advanced airway management		ALS	Ventilator dependent, apnea monitor, possible intubation needed, deep sedation	A0426, A0434
Chemical resuscitation		ALS	Per transfer instructions	A0426
Suctioning required en route, need for titrated O2 therapy or fluid management		BLS	Per transfer instructions	A0428
Airway control/positioning required en route.		BLS	Per transfer instructions	A0428
Third party assistance/attendant required to apply, administer, or regulate or adjust oxygen en route.		BLS	Does not apply to patient capable of self-administration of portable or home O2. Patient must require oxygen therapy and be so frail as to require assistance.	A0428

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Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Patient safety: Danger to self or others – in restraints.		BLS	Refer to definition in 42 CFR Section 482.13(e).	A0428
Patient safety: Danger to self or others – monitoring		BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires monitoring for safety.	A0428
Patient safety: Danger to self or others – seclusion (flight risk).		BLS	Behavioral or cognitive risk such that patient requires attendance and care that requires non-transport to emergency ambulance prematurely. Refer to 42 CFR Section 482.13(f) for definition.	A0428

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Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Patient safety: Risk of falling off wheelchair or stretcher while in motion (not related to obesity).		BLS	Patient's physical condition is such that patient risks injury during vehicle movement despite restraints. Insect vectors include Mosquitoes.	A0428
Special handling en route – isolation.		BLS	Includes patients with communicable diseases or hazardous material exposure who must be isolated from public, whose medical condition must be protected from public exposure; surgical drainage complications.	A0428

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Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
Special handling en route to reduce pain – orthopedic device.		BLS	Backboard, halotraction, use of pins and traction etc. Pain may be present.	A0428
Special handling en route – positioning requires specialized handling		BLS	Requires special handling to avoid further injury such as with > grade 2 decubiti on buttocks). Generally does not apply to shorter transfers of < 1 hour. Positioning in wheelchair or stander car seat inappropriate due to contractures or recent extremity fractures – post-op hip as an example.	A0428

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Alaska Medicaid
Ground Ambulance Criteria
Transport Indicators

Transportation Indicators Air and Ground	Transportation Category	Transportation Indicator Description	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
C6	ALS-level response to BLS-level patient	ALS response required based upon appropriate dispatch protocols – BLS-level patient transport. Indicates to Carrier/Intermediary that an ALS-level ambulance responded appropriately based upon the information received at the time the call was received in dispatch and after a clinically appropriate ALS-assessment was performed on scene. It was determined that the condition of the patient was at BLS level. This claim and any other claim for this patient should be billed and reimbursed at the BLS level based upon coverage guidelines under the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule.	ALS		A0427
C7		When administered en route, this transportation indicator is used for patients that require ALS-level transport in a non-emergent situation primarily because the patient requires monitoring of ongoing medications administered intravenously. Does not apply to self-administered medications. Does not include administration of crystalloid intravenous fluids (i.e., Normal Saline, Lactate Ringers, 5% Dextrose in Water, etc.). The patient's condition should also be reported on the claim with a code selected from the list	ALS	Does not apply to self-administered medications.	A0426

Obsolete

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