



# ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to excellence in the Fire Service*

Post Office Box 7 Skokie, Illinois 60076-0007

Phone (847)966-0732 Fax (847)966-0782

Website: [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

## GEMT Update 10 Things YOU Need to Know

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By: Phil Giannattasio  
Deputy Chief  
Naperville Fire Department

As we enter year five of the Illinois supplemental Medicaid reimbursement program or Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) there are a few things for agencies to prepare for.

1. You can access the new year cost report from the Health and Family Services website ([HFS.Illinois.gov](http://HFS.Illinois.gov)). You will find the cost report template, instructions, and IGA, should you need it.
2. The cost report (and signed IGA, if applicable) are due to the HFS by **October 2, 2023**. The cost report should be submitted both as an Excel file and as a PDF with signatures. All documents should be emailed to [HFS.GEMT@illinois.gov](mailto:HFS.GEMT@illinois.gov).
3. Questions regarding the program should be directed to [HFS.GEMT@illinois.gov](mailto:HFS.GEMT@illinois.gov) or the Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services at 877-782-5565.
4. There are no significant changes to the rules or cost reporting instructions for the rate year 2024
5. Your reporting period will be your last full fiscal year; it does not matter what your fiscal calendar looks like; the state will require you to have the most recent full complete financial year (ex. January 1 to Dec 31 or April 1 to March 31)
6. Accurate reporting of actual transportation costs is becoming more critical as the program matures. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and Illinois Health and Family Services will look more closely at outlier cost reports than before. Meaning, falling significantly outside the median will be flagged. HFS is looking to institute rules similar to those that govern supportive care facilities, which will put caps on the amount a rate can be; however, we want to be ahead of this so it does not raise any red flags.
7. If your agency uses a consultant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing company, please be aware that you should not be charged a commission on the supplemental portion of the Medicaid rate.
8. GEMT rates and published/ordinance billing rates must be equal. HFS will be looking closer at misaligned rates (Medicaid cannot be charged more than private insurance). Agencies will have some grace on this during 2024 but will need to make changes to a standard uniform rate based on the cost report for 2025.
9. HFS is experimenting with code modifiers on the traditional ALS and BLS transports to allow full billing (minus mileage) for treat-on-scene runs (think diabetic refusal) and full billing for alternative transportation runs (think future mental health transportation). These modifiers are in the experimental phase and are not authorized yet.
10. **FINALLY**, encourage other fire departments in your area who should be participating in the GEMT program and are not to participate. It is important for all of us!