



BlueCross BlueShield
of North Carolina

MEDICARE

April 2024

Rotary to Ground Educational Campaign Message

Please note, this communication applies to Healthy Blue + MedicareSM (HMO-POS D-SNP) offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

When determining transportation to an alternative hospital and to avoid medical necessity denials for rotary ring air ambulance transports to another hospital, please remember the criteria below.

The use of air and water ambulance services is considered medically necessary when all the following criteria are met:

- A. The ambulance must have the necessary equipment and supplies to address the needs of the individual; **and**
- B. The individual's condition must be such that any form of transportation other than by ambulance would be medically contraindicated; **and**
- C. The individual's condition is such that the time needed to transport by land poses a threat to the individual's survival or seriously endangers the individual's health;* or the individual's location is such that accessibility is only feasible by air or water transportation; **and**
- D. There is a medical condition that is life threatening, or first responders deem to be life threatening, including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Intracranial bleeding; **or**
 2. Cardiogenic shock; **or**
 3. Major burns requiring immediate treatment in a burn center; or
 4. Conditions requiring immediate treatment in a hyperbaric oxygen unit; or
 5. Multiple severe injuries; **or**
 6. Transplants; **or**
 7. Limb-threatening trauma; **or**
 8. High risk pregnancy; **or**
 9. Acute myocardial infarction; if this would enable the individual to receive a more timely medically necessary intervention (such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty [PTCA] or fibrinolytic therapy).

<https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health, DBA Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is an HMO-POS D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a NC State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC). Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health depends upon contract renewal.

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* Air transportation may be appropriate if the time between identification of the need for transportation until arrival at the intended destination for ground ambulance would be at least 30 minutes longer than air transport.