

Plan on the best fit.

SANFORD
HEALTH PLAN

North Dakota Interim Health Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
October 9, 2014

Chairman Lee, members of the Health Care Reform Review Committee, I am Lisa Carlson, Director of Planning and Regulation at Sanford Health Plan. I appear before you to provide information the feasibility of using third-party payors to reimburse community paramedics to provide clinical and public health services.

As the Managed Care Organization that administers the State's Medicaid Expansion Program, Sanford Health Plan supports the need to provide care at different levels in rural and urban settings. We understand and applaud the goal for newly trained community paramedics to be able to work with the patient's own primary care physician to arrive at the best solution for care in the clinic or home, hopefully avoiding an unnecessary trip to the emergency room.

Sanford Health Plan agrees that it's feasible to create the infrastructure necessary to reimburse community paramedics for mid-level clinical evaluation and treatment using third-party payors. However, we support clarification and welcome further dialogue to identify the necessary certification, credentialing requirements, and coding needed for reimbursement in order to provide stable and long-term support for such a program.

Questions we look forward for discussing include:

- Will services be billable for Medicaid and/or Medicaid Expansion? Or private insurance?
- Confirmation that such services are billed as a professional claim;
- Is it expected that travel/mileage is reimbursed?
- Who's the billing entity/person? How will the provider be distinctly identified, via NPI?
- Who or what procedures/policies determine the scope of practice for each paramedic? Are there different levels of expertise/certification? If so, is third-party reimbursement scaled to each level?
- Who is the referring provider, if a referral is needed to a specialist or inpatient stay?
- What codes/modifiers are appropriate for billing?
- What types of services will be reimbursable? Will vaccines, drugs, and supplies be billed?
- What's the best way to anticipate supply and utilization?
- How do we verify place of service?

In Summary, Sanford Health Plan is in favor of alternative care models that improve patient care and reduce inappropriate use of emergency rooms and ambulance services for non-urgent care. We commit to participate in further examination in order to build such a program.