

Senate Transportation Committee NEMT Overview and Discussion

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April 11, 2025

OVERVIEW: NEMT IN VERMONT

What is NEMT

- The **Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)** Program provides rides for Medicaid beneficiaries to and from **Medicaid-covered services** with **Medicaid-enrolled providers**.
- The NEMT program is designed to ensure that Vermonters can **access essential medical services** and utilize their Medicaid insurance benefit.
- The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) **contracts with** the Vermont Public Transportation Association (VPTA) to administer the benefit.
- **VPTA assists with program administration** in the following ways:
 - Determining program eligibility
 - Scheduling rides for members
 - Resolving challenges faced by providers and members
 - And more....

Federal Requirements for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Minimum Federal Requirements	
	State Medicaid Agencies are required to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to medically necessary covered services .
	States must use the least costly mode that is appropriate for the physical and emotional condition of the beneficiary .
	The state must ensure the availability of necessary transportation to the nearest qualified provider of the services that the beneficiary needs.
	States must comply with the process for screening providers and supplies for all providers furnishing items or services under the state plan.

Federal funding is contingent upon meeting these basic federal requirements.

OVERVIEW: NEMT IN VERMONT

Program Eligibility

- Members must be **currently enrolled in Vermont Medicaid** to be eligible for NEMT.
- Members must have **no other transportation available** to them.
- Members must be requesting transportation to a **medically necessary service**.
- Members must have a **Medicaid-billable appointment with a provider who is enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program**.
- Members must be requesting transportation to the **closest available provider**.
- Members will be transported to appointments using the **most appropriate and least costly method** of transportation

Members Served

- DVHA and VPTA coordinated and provided **312, 575 rides in SFY24**
- DVHA and VPTA project to coordinate and provide **300,000 rides for SFY25**
- DVHA and VPTA served **over 6,600 individual members** through the NEMT Program in SFY24

DVHA Service Procurement Model

Current State Overview: Contract



DVHA currently holds **one statewide contract with VPTA** for the NEMT program. The current contract expires on June 30, 2026.



DVHA is required to conduct **an RFP process during the summer and fall of 2025** to procure a vendor.

NEMT Costs

- ✓ The total amount paid to VPTA in **SFY24 for NEMT is \$15.8M**
- ✓ The current estimated **NEMT cost to DVHA for SFY25 is \$15.7M**

Current State Overview: Payment

- ✓ DVHA currently **pays for NEMT using a Per Member Per Week (PMPW) methodology.**
 - ✓ The PMPW is based on the number of **active unique Medicaid beneficiaries who have accessed NEMT** in the past 365 days.
 - ✓ Most expenses are wrapped up into the PMPW but **some rides or related travel expenses are carved out of the PMPW** due to high costs, related travel costs, etc.
- ✓ The current **SFY25 Rate is \$45.80, Per Member Per Week**
 - ✓ The current **PMPW count is 6,419 members**
- ✓ The PMPW is **intended to reflect the average cost** across the entire program. Some Medicaid members will be more frequent users (e.g. daily) while others will be less frequent users (e.g. annually).