



## Administrative Policy Statement GEORGIA MEDICAID

| Policy Name                  |                       | Policy Number | Date Effective |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Against Medical Advice (AMA) |                       | AD-0764       | 07/01/2020     |
| Policy Type                  |                       |               |                |
| Medical                      | <b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b> | Pharmacy      | Reimbursement  |

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## A. Subject

### **Against Medical Advice (AMA)**

## B. Background

Studies show that patients who are discharged AMA are at higher risk for readmissions and negative health outcomes when compared to a planned discharge. Reasons why people leave AMA may include lack of satisfaction with stay, finances, and being away from home or children.

## C. Definitions

- **Against Medical Advice (AMA)** - When a member chooses to leave the hospital or acute care setting before a practitioner writes the order for discharge.

## D. Policy

- I. CareSource will only pay for services, procedures, and supplies rendered.
- II. The discharge status code on the submitted claim must indicate that the member left against medical advice.
- III. If a member leaves AMA in the emergency room and the facility has submitted a prior authorization for inpatient services, only the emergency room will be considered for payment.

## E. Conditions of Coverage

Member must be eligible at the time of the service, procedure or supply was provided.

Service, procedure, or supply must be a covered benefit.

Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting approved HCPCS and CPT codes along with appropriate modifiers, if applicable; and appropriate ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes. Please refer to the individual fee schedule for appropriate codes.

Prior authorization does not guarantee reimbursement.

Failure to obtain the required prior authorization will result in a denial of reimbursement.

All services, procedures, and supplies are subject to review for medical necessity.

## F. Related Policies/Rules



G. Review/Revision History

| DATES                 |            | ACTION     |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Date Issued</b>    | 07/01/2020 |            |
| <b>Date Revised</b>   |            |            |
| <b>Date Effective</b> | 07/01/2020 | New policy |
| <b>Date Archived</b>  | 05/01/2021 |            |

H. References

1. Alfandre, D. J. (2009, March). *"I'm going home": discharges against medical advice*. Retrieved December 20, 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
2. Khalili, M., Teimouri, A., Shahramian, I., Sargolzaei, N., YazTappeh, J. S., & Farzanehfar, M. (2019, April 5). *Discharge against medical advice in paediatric patients*. Retrieved December 20, 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
3. Hasan, O., Samad, M. A., Khan, H., Sarfraz, M., Noordin, S., Ahmad, T., & Nowshad, G. (2019, August 1). *Leaving Against Medical Advice From In-patients Departments Rate, Reasons and Predicting Risk Factors for Re-visiting Hospital Retrospective Cohort From a Tertiary Care Hospital*. Retrieved December 20, 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
4. Southern, W. N., Nahvi, S., & Arnsten, J. H. (2012, June). *Increased risk of mortality and readmission among patients discharged against medical advice*. Retrieved December 20, 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
5. Alper, E., O'Malley, T., & Greenwald, J. (2019, November). *Hospital discharge and readmission*. Retrieved December 20, 2019, from <https://www.uptodate.com>
6. Georgia Department of Community Health Division of Medicaid. (October 2019). *Part I Policies and Procedures for Hospital Services*. Retrieved December 2, 2019 from <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov>

The Administrative Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the Administrative Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

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DCH Approved 03/31/2020