Ambulance Trends 2012-2021 for Employer Sponsored Insurance

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HCCI is a mission-driven, independent, non-profit organization at the nexus of data, analytics, and action.

We were founded in 2011 to leverage unique, high-quality data and extraordinary expertise in research and policy to give decisionmakers the tools they need to lower health care costs and increase value in the health care system.
What HCCI does

Data Aggregation, Governance, Licensing
Academic and policy researchers use our data for their projects.

Thought Leadership and Original Research
HCCI conducts impactful, relevant research using our dataset and government data sources.

Government Data Analytics
HCCI works with clients to analyze Medicare and Medicaid data. HCCI is also a national Qualified Entity.

Multi-Payer Datasets and Transparency Tools
Guroo.org is HCCI’s consumer-facing price transparency tool. HCCI also operates Florida’s All Payer Claims Database.
Ground Ambulance Basics

Note: All the results we present today is for people with employer-sponsored insurance.

- Overall, the average price of a ground ambulance trip in 2021 was $1,093
  - 33% higher than in 2012
- People paid an average of $229 out-of-pocket on ground ambulance trips in 2021
  - 64% higher than in 2012

![Graph showing the average price of ground ambulance trips from 2012 to 2021]
• Most frequently billed codes, by far were Base (A0429) and Mileage (A0425)

• All of the other codes were much less common

• For example, non-transport ground ambulance code A0998 was rarely used
  • Though, its use is increasing over time
  • Also did not dip in 2020
Prices drive spending growth for ambulance services
Price variation is growing for all types of ambulance trips.
Price growth driven by high priced trips

- 90\textsuperscript{th} and 75\textsuperscript{th} percentile prices are growing faster than 10\textsuperscript{th} and 25\textsuperscript{th} percentiles
- Base price and price per mile are increasing at similar rates
- Little change in average mileage (4\% increase over 10 years)
Share of ground ambulance trips billed OON declined

- Out-of-network (OON) billing for ambulance service declined from 43% of trips having at least one service billed OON in 2012 to 35% in 2021
- Most of the decline observed in 2021
- Overall share of ambulance services billed OON remains high
$424 in RI
$1,946 in MN
Price variation and growth differs by state

- States with lowest mean prices for ground ambulance trips tend to have less variation in prices.
- Greater growth in gap between 10th and 90th percentile price in states with higher prices.
Questions?

What other analysis would be helpful?

Additional data are available on HCCI’s website: www.healthcostinstitute.org