

2022 -- S 2476

LC004627

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Introduced By: Senators Miller, DiMario, Lawson, Valverde, and Cano

Date Introduced: March 01, 2022

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18 of the General Laws entitled "Accident and Sickness Insurance
2 Policies" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **27-18-89. Emergency medical services transport to alternate facilities.**

4 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

5 (1) "Advanced life support" or "ALS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle,
6 medically necessary supplies and services and either an ALS assessment by ALS personnel or the
7 provision of at least one ALS intervention; or the administration of at least three (3) medications
8 by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic,
9 and hypertonic solutions (dextrose, normal saline, ringer's lactate); or transportation, medically
10 necessary supplies and services; and the provision of at least one of the following ALS procedures:

11 (i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion;

12 (ii) Endotracheal intubation;

13 (iii) Central venous line;

14 (iv) Cardiac pacing;

15 (v) Chest decompression;

16 (vi) Surgical airway; or

17 (vii) Intraosseous line.

18 (2) "Advanced life support assessment" is an assessment performed by ALS personnel as
19 part of an emergency response that was necessary because the patient's reported condition at the

1 time of dispatch was such that only ALS personnel is qualified to perform the assessment. An ALS
2 assessment does not necessarily result in a determination that the patient requires an ALS level of
3 service.

4 (3) "Advanced life support intervention" means a procedure that is required to be furnished
5 by ALS personnel in accordance with state law and regulation.

6 (4) "Advanced life support personnel" means an individual licensed in accordance with
7 state law and regulation as an advanced emergency medical technician-cardiac or paramedic.

8 (5) "Basic life support" or "BLS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and
9 medically necessary supplies and services, plus the provision of BLS ambulance services. The
10 ambulance must be staffed by at least two (2) people who meet the requirements of state laws and
11 regulations where the services are being furnished. Also, at least one of the staff members must be
12 licensed, at a minimum, as an emergency medical technician by the state or local authority where
13 the services are furnished and be legally authorized to operate all lifesaving and life-sustaining
14 equipment on board the vehicle.

15 (i) Basic life support shall be deemed non-emergency basic life support at the professional
16 discretion of the emergency medical services practitioner.

17 (6) "Emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the practitioners, ambulance vehicles,
18 and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide
19 emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation
20 of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS responding to the 911 system established
21 under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

22 (7) "Emergency medical services practitioner" means an individual who is licensed in
23 accordance with state laws and regulations to perform emergency medical care and preventive care
24 to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including emergency medical
25 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians-
26 cardiac, and paramedics.

27 (b) This section authorizes emergency medical services in the state to divert non-
28 emergency basic life service calls from emergency departments. Emergency medical services
29 practitioners shall assess individuals who are in need of emergency medical services and apply the
30 correct level of care thereafter, which may include transport to an alternative facility deemed
31 appropriate by an emergency medical services practitioner. An alternative facility shall include, but
32 not be limited to:

33 (1) An individual's primary care provider;

34 (2) A community health clinic;

- 1 (3) An urgent care facility;
2 (4) An emergency room diversion facility, as defined in § 23-17.26-2; and
3 (5) A community-based behavioral health facility designed to provide immediate
4 assistance to a person in crisis.

5 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
6 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
7 coverage for emergency medical services shall provide coverage for transport to an alternative
8 location facility as identified in subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse the EMS for such
9 services at the same rate as for a non-emergency basic life support transport to an emergency
10 department.

11 (d) If treatment at an alternative facility is deemed appropriate by the EMS practitioner, the
12 emergency medical service shall bill at the rate described in subsection (c) of this section, even if
13 an advanced life support assessment was provided.

14 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
15 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
16 and enforcement of this section.

17 **27-18-90. Coverage of EMS mental health and substance use disorder treatment.**

18 (a) As used in this section, "emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the
19 practitioners, ambulance vehicles, and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with
20 chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to
21 mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS
22 responding to the 911 system established under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

23 (b) Emergency medical services shall be permitted to allow licensed providers who treat
24 mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, to accompany EMS. Such providers
25 shall be permitted to treat EMS patients when medically necessary and appropriate. Such treatment
26 shall be permitted to occur in the community.

27 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
28 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
29 coverage for emergency medical services, shall provide coverage for treatment described in
30 subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse such services at a rate not lower than the same
31 service would have been had that service been delivered in a traditional office setting.

32 (d) Treatment and coverage for mental health disorders, including substance use disorders,
33 as described in this section shall be provided in accordance with chapter 38.2 of title 27.

34 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and

1 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
2 and enforcement of this section.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 27-19 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Hospital Service
4 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

5 **27-19-81. Emergency medical services transport to alternate facilities.**

6 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

7 (1) "Advanced life support" or "ALS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle,
8 medically necessary supplies and services and either an ALS assessment by ALS personnel or the
9 provision of at least one ALS intervention; or the administration of at least three (3) medications
10 by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic,
11 and hypertonic solutions (dextrose, normal saline, ringer's lactate); or transportation, medically
12 necessary supplies and services; and the provision of at least one of the following ALS procedures:

13 (i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion;

14 (ii) Endotracheal intubation;

15 (iii) Central venous line;

16 (iv) Cardiac pacing;

17 (v) Chest decompression;

18 (vi) Surgical airway; or

19 (vii) Intraosseous line.

20 (2) "Advanced life support assessment" is an assessment performed by ALS personnel as
21 part of an emergency response that was necessary because the patient's reported condition at the
22 time of dispatch was such that only ALS personnel is qualified to perform the assessment. An ALS
23 assessment does not necessarily result in a determination that the patient requires an ALS level of
24 service.

25 (3) "Advanced life support intervention" means a procedure that is required to be furnished
26 by ALS personnel in accordance with state law and regulation.

27 (4) "Advanced life support personnel" means an individual licensed in accordance with
28 state law and regulation as an advanced emergency medical technician-cardiac or paramedic.

29 (5) "Basic life support" or "BLS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and
30 medically necessary supplies and services, plus the provision of BLS ambulance services. The
31 ambulance must be staffed by at least two (2) people who meet the requirements of state laws and
32 regulations where the services are being furnished. Also, at least one of the staff members must be
33 licensed, at a minimum, as an emergency medical technician by the state or local authority where
34 the services are furnished and be legally authorized to operate all lifesaving and life-sustaining

1 equipment on board the vehicle.

2 (i) Basic life support shall be deemed non-emergency basic life support at the professional
3 discretion of the emergency medical services practitioner.

4 (6) "Emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the practitioners, ambulance vehicles,
5 and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide
6 emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation
7 of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS responding to the 911 system established
8 under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

9 (7) "Emergency medical services practitioner" means an individual who is licensed in
10 accordance with state laws and regulations to perform emergency medical care and preventive care
11 to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including emergency medical
12 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians-
13 cardiac, and paramedics.

14 (b) This section authorizes emergency medical services in the state to divert non-
15 emergency basic life service calls from emergency departments. Emergency medical services
16 practitioners shall assess individuals who are in need of emergency medical services and apply the
17 correct level of care thereafter, which may include transport to an alternative facility deemed
18 appropriate by an emergency medical services practitioner. An alternative facility shall include, but
19 not be limited to:

20 (1) An individual's primary care provider;

21 (2) A community health clinic;

22 (3) An urgent care facility;

23 (4) An emergency room diversion facility, as defined in § 23-17.26-2; and

24 (5) A community-based behavioral health facility designed to provide immediate
25 assistance to a person in crisis.

26 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
27 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
28 coverage for emergency medical services shall provide coverage for transport to an alternative
29 location facility as identified in subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse the EMS for such
30 services at the same rate as for a non-emergency basic life support transport to an emergency
31 department.

32 (d) If treatment at an alternative facility is deemed appropriate by the EMS practitioner, the
33 emergency medical service shall bill at the rate described in subsection (c) of this section even if
34 an advanced life support assessment was provided.

1 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
2 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
3 and enforcement of this section.

4 **27-19-82. Coverage of EMS mental health and substance use disorder treatment.**

5 (a) As used in this section, "emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the
6 practitioners, ambulance vehicles, and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with
7 chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to
8 mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS
9 responding to the 911 system established under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

10 (b) Emergency medical services shall be permitted to allow licensed providers who treat
11 mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, to accompany EMS. Such providers
12 shall be permitted to treat EMS patients when medically necessary and appropriate. Such treatment
13 shall be permitted to occur in the community.

14 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
15 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
16 coverage for emergency medical services, shall provide coverage for treatment described in
17 subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse such services at a rate not lower than the same
18 service would have been had that service been delivered in a traditional office setting.

19 (d) Treatment and coverage for mental health disorders, including substance use disorders,
20 as described in this section shall be provided in accordance with chapter 38.2 of title 27.

21 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
22 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
23 and enforcement of this section.

24 SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Medical Service
25 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

26 **27-20-77. Emergency medical services transport to alternate facilities.**

27 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

28 (1) "Advanced life support" or "ALS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle,
29 medically necessary supplies and services and either an ALS assessment by ALS personnel or the
30 provision of at least one ALS intervention; or the administration of at least three (3) medications
31 by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic,
32 and hypertonic solutions (dextrose, normal saline, ringer's lactate); or transportation, medically
33 necessary supplies and services; and the provision of at least one of the following ALS procedures:

34 (i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion;

1 (ii) Endotracheal intubation;

2 (iii) Central venous line;

3 (iv) Cardiac pacing;

4 (v) Chest decompression;

5 (vi) Surgical airway; or

6 (vii) Intraosseous line.

7 (2) "Advanced life support assessment" is an assessment performed by ALS personnel as
8 part of an emergency response that was necessary because the patient's reported condition at the
9 time of dispatch was such that only ALS personnel is qualified to perform the assessment. An ALS
10 assessment does not necessarily result in a determination that the patient requires an ALS level of
11 service.

12 (3) "Advanced life support intervention" means a procedure that is required to be furnished
13 by ALS personnel in accordance with state law and regulation.

14 (4) "Advanced life support personnel" means an individual licensed in accordance with
15 state law and regulation as an advanced emergency medical technician-cardiac or paramedic.

16 (5) "Basic life support" or "BLS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and
17 medically necessary supplies and services, plus the provision of BLS ambulance services. The
18 ambulance must be staffed by at least two (2) people who meet the requirements of state laws and
19 regulations where the services are being furnished. Also, at least one of the staff members must be
20 licensed, at a minimum, as an emergency medical technician by the state or local authority where
21 the services are furnished and be legally authorized to operate all lifesaving and life-sustaining
22 equipment on board the vehicle.

23 (i) Basic life support shall be deemed non-emergency basic life support at the professional
24 discretion of the emergency medical services practitioner.

25 (6) "Emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the practitioners, ambulance vehicles,
26 and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide
27 emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation
28 of illness or injury including, but not limited to, EMS responding to the 911 system established
29 under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

30 (7) "Emergency medical services practitioner" means an individual who is licensed in
31 accordance with state laws and regulations to perform emergency medical care and preventive care
32 to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including emergency medical
33 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians-
34 cardiac, and paramedics.

1 (b) This section authorizes emergency medical services in the state to divert non-
2 emergency basic life service calls from emergency departments. Emergency medical services
3 practitioners shall assess individuals who are in need of emergency medical services and apply the
4 correct level of care thereafter, which may include transport to an alternative facility deemed
5 appropriate by an emergency medical services practitioner. An alternative facility shall include, but
6 not be limited to:

7 (1) An individual's primary care provider;

8 (2) A community health clinic;

9 (3) An urgent care facility;

10 (4) An emergency room diversion facility, as defined in § 23-17.26-2; and

11 (5) A community-based behavioral health facility designed to provide immediate
12 assistance to a person in crisis.

13 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
14 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
15 coverage for emergency medical services shall provide coverage for transport to an alternative
16 location facility as identified in subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse the EMS for such
17 services at the same rate as for a non-emergency basic life support transport to an emergency
18 department.

19 (d) If treatment at an alternative facility is deemed appropriate by the EMS practitioner, the
20 emergency medical service shall bill at the rate described in subsection (c) of this section, even if
21 an advanced life support assessment was provided.

22 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
23 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
24 and enforcement of this section.

25 **27-20-78. Coverage of EMS mental health and substance use disorder treatment.**

26 (a) As used in this section, "emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the
27 practitioners, ambulance vehicles, and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with
28 chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to
29 mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS
30 responding to the 911 system established under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

31 (b) Emergency medical services shall be permitted to allow licensed providers who treat
32 mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, to accompany EMS. Such providers
33 shall be permitted to treat EMS patients when medically necessary and appropriate. Such treatment
34 shall be permitted to occur in the community.

1 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
2 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
3 coverage for emergency medical services, shall provide coverage for treatment described in
4 subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse such services at a rate not lower than the same
5 service would have been had that service been delivered in a traditional office setting.

6 (d) Treatment and coverage for mental health disorders, including substance use disorders,
7 as described in this section shall be provided in accordance with chapter 38.2 of title 27.

8 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
9 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
10 and enforcement of this section.

11 SECTION 4. Chapter 27-41 of the General Laws entitled "Health Maintenance
12 Organizations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

13 **27-41-94. Emergency medical services transport to alternate facilities.**

14 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

15 (1) "Advanced life support" or "ALS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle,
16 medically necessary supplies and services and either an ALS assessment by ALS personnel or the
17 provision of at least one ALS intervention; or the administration of at least three (3) medications
18 by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic,
19 and hypertonic solutions (dextrose, normal saline, ringer's lactate); or transportation, medically
20 necessary supplies and services; and the provision of at least one of the following ALS procedures:

21 (i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion;

22 (ii) Endotracheal intubation;

23 (iii) Central venous line;

24 (iv) Cardiac pacing;

25 (v) Chest decompression;

26 (vi) Surgical airway; or

27 (vii) Intraosseous line.

28 (2) "Advanced life support assessment" is an assessment performed by ALS personnel as
29 part of an emergency response that was necessary because the patient's reported condition at the
30 time of dispatch was such that only ALS personnel is qualified to perform the assessment. An ALS
31 assessment does not necessarily result in a determination that the patient requires an ALS level of
32 service.

33 (3) "Advanced life support intervention" means a procedure that is required to be furnished
34 by ALS personnel in accordance with state law and regulation.

1 (4) "Advanced life support personnel" means an individual licensed in accordance with
2 state law and regulation as an advanced emergency medical technician-cardiac or paramedic.

3 (5) "Basic life support" or "BLS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and
4 medically necessary supplies and services, plus the provision of BLS ambulance services. The
5 ambulance must be staffed by at least two (2) people who meet the requirements of state laws and
6 regulations where the services are being furnished. Also, at least one of the staff members must be
7 licensed, at a minimum, as an emergency medical technician by the state or local authority where
8 the services are furnished and be legally authorized to operate all lifesaving and life-sustaining
9 equipment on board the vehicle.

10 (i) Basic life support shall be deemed non-emergency basic life support at the professional
11 discretion of the emergency medical services practitioner.

12 (6) "Emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the practitioners, ambulance vehicles,
13 and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide
14 emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation
15 of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS responding to the 911 system established
16 under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

17 (7) "Emergency medical services practitioner" means an individual who is licensed in
18 accordance with state laws and regulations to perform emergency medical care and preventive care
19 to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including emergency medical
20 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians-
21 cardiac, and paramedics.

22 (b) This section authorizes emergency medical services in the state to divert non-
23 emergency basic life service calls from emergency departments. Emergency medical services
24 practitioners shall assess individuals who are in need of emergency medical services and apply the
25 correct level of care thereafter, which may include transport to an alternative facility deemed
26 appropriate by an emergency medical services practitioner. An alternative facility shall include, but
27 not be limited to:

28 (1) An individual's primary care provider;

29 (2) A community health clinic;

30 (3) An urgent care facility;

31 (4) An emergency room diversion facility, as defined in § 23-17.26-2; and

32 (5) A community-based behavioral health facility designed to provide immediate
33 assistance to a person in crisis.

34 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan

1 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
2 coverage for emergency medical services shall provide coverage for transport to an alternative
3 location facility as identified in subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse the EMS for such
4 services at the same rate as for a non-emergency basic life support transport to an emergency
5 department.

6 (d) If treatment at an alternative facility is deemed appropriate by the EMS practitioner, the
7 emergency medical service shall bill at the rate described in subsection (c) of this section, even if
8 an advanced life support assessment was provided.

9 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
10 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
11 and enforcement of this section.

12 **27-41-95. Coverage of EMS mental health and substance use disorder treatment.**

13 (a) As used in this section, "emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the
14 practitioners, ambulance vehicles, and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with
15 chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to
16 mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS
17 responding to the 911 system established under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

18 (b) Emergency medical services shall be permitted to allow licensed providers who treat
19 mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, to accompany EMS. Such providers
20 shall be permitted to treat EMS patients when medically necessary and appropriate. Such treatment
21 shall be permitted to occur in the community.

22 (c) Commencing January 1, 2023, every individual or group health insurance contract, plan
23 or policy issued for delivery or renewed in this state that provides medical coverage that includes
24 coverage for emergency medical services, shall provide coverage for treatment described in
25 subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse such services at a rate not lower than the same
26 service would have been had that service been delivered in a traditional office setting.

27 (d) Treatment and coverage for mental health disorders, including substance use disorders,
28 as described in this section shall be provided in accordance with chapter 38.2 of title 27.

29 (e) The office of the health insurance commissioner may promulgate such rules and
30 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
31 and enforcement of this section.

32 SECTION 5. Chapter 42-7.2 of the General Laws entitled "Office of Health and Human
33 Services" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

34 **42-7.2-21. Emergency medical services transport to alternate facilities.**

1 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

2 (1) "Advanced life support" or "ALS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle,
3 medically necessary supplies and services and either an ALS assessment by ALS personnel or the
4 provision of at least one ALS intervention; or the administration of at least three (3) medications
5 by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic,
6 and hypertonic solutions (Dextrose, Normal Saline, Ringer's Lactate); or transportation, medically
7 necessary supplies and services; and the provision of at least one of the following ALS procedures:

8 (i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion;

9 (ii) Endotracheal intubation;

10 (iii) Central venous line;

11 (iv) Cardiac pacing;

12 (v) Chest decompression;

13 (vi) Surgical airway; or

14 (vii) Intraosseous line.

15 (2) "Advanced life support assessment" is an assessment performed by ALS personnel as
16 part of an emergency response that was necessary because the patient's reported condition at the
17 time of dispatch was such that only ALS personnel is qualified to perform the assessment. An ALS
18 assessment does not necessarily result in a determination that the patient requires an ALS level of
19 service.

20 (3) "Advanced life support intervention" means a procedure that is required to be furnished
21 by ALS personnel in accordance with state law and regulation.

22 (4) "Advanced life support personnel" means an individual, licensed in accordance with
23 state law and regulation, as an advanced emergency medical technician-cardiac or paramedic.

24 (5) "Basic life support" or "BLS" means transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and
25 medically necessary supplies and services, plus the provision of BLS ambulance services. The
26 ambulance must be staffed by at least two (2) people who meet the requirements of state laws and
27 regulations where the services are being furnished. Also, at least one of the staff members must be
28 licensed, at a minimum, as an emergency medical technician by the state or local authority where
29 the services are furnished and be legally authorized to operate all lifesaving and life-sustaining
30 equipment on board the vehicle.

31 (i) Basic life support shall be deemed non-emergency basic life support at the professional
32 discretion of the emergency medical services practitioner.

33 (6) "Emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the practitioners, ambulance vehicles,
34 and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide

1 emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation
2 of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS responding to the 911 system established
3 under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

4 (7) "Emergency medical services practitioner" means an individual who is licensed in
5 accordance with state laws and regulations to perform emergency medical care and preventive care
6 to mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including emergency medical
7 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians-
8 cardiac, and paramedics.

9 (b) This section authorizes emergency medical services in the state to divert non-
10 emergency basic life service calls from emergency departments. Emergency medical services
11 practitioners shall assess individuals who are in need of emergency medical services and apply the
12 correct level of care thereafter, which may include transport to an alternative facility deemed
13 appropriate by an emergency medical services practitioner. An alternative facility shall include, but
14 not be limited to:

15 (1) An individual's primary care provider;

16 (2) A community health clinic;

17 (3) An urgent care facility;

18 (4) An emergency room diversion facility, as defined in § 23-17.26-2; and

19 (5) A community-based behavioral health facility designed to provide immediate
20 assistance to a person in crisis.

21 (c) Rhode Island Medicaid and its contracted managed care entities shall provide coverage
22 for transport to an alternative facility as identified in subsection (b) of this section and shall
23 reimburse the EMS for such services at the same rate as for a non-emergency basic life support
24 transport to an emergency department.

25 (d) If treatment at an alternative facility is deemed appropriate by the EMS practitioner, the
26 emergency medical service shall bill at the rate described in subsection (c) of this section even if
27 an advanced life support assessment was provided.

28 (e) The executive office of health and human services may promulgate such rules and
29 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
30 and enforcement of this chapter.

31 **42-7.2-22. Coverage of EMS mental health and substance use disorder treatment.**

32 (a) As used in this section, "emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the
33 practitioners, ambulance vehicles, and ambulance service entities licensed in accordance with
34 chapter 4.1 of title 23 to provide emergency medical care, transportation, and preventive care to

1 mitigate loss of life or exacerbation of illness or injury, including, but not limited to, EMS
2 responding to the 911 system established under chapter 21.1 of title 39.

3 (b) Emergency medical services shall be permitted to allow licensed providers who treat
4 mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, to accompany EMS. Such providers
5 shall be permitted to treat EMS patients when medically necessary and appropriate. Such treatment
6 shall be permitted to occur in the community.

7 (c) Rhode Island Medicaid and its contracted managed care entities shall provide coverage
8 for treatment described in subsection (b) of this section and shall reimburse such services at a rate
9 not lower than the same service would have been had that service been delivered in a traditional
10 office setting.

11 (d) The executive office of health and human services may promulgate such rules and
12 regulations as are necessary and proper to effectuate the purpose and for the efficient administration
13 and enforcement of this chapter.

14 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

1 This act would require health insurers, nonprofit hospital service corporations, nonprofit
2 medical service corporations, health maintenance organizations and Rhode Island Medicaid, to
3 issue policies that provide coverage for emergency medical services transport to alternate facilities
4 and coverage of emergency medical services mental health and substance use disorder treatment,
5 on or after January 1, 2023.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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