

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

(Year ~~34~~35 Service Priorities: #~~130~~ for Part A and #~~7~~ for MAI)

Medical Transportation is a support service. Medical Transportation is the provision of non-emergency transportation services that enables an eligible client to access or be retained in core medical and support services. Locally, this service is limited to specially-designated, discounted EASY Tickets (transportation vouchers) from the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW; formerly Miami-Dade Transit Agency-MDTA) to program-eligible people with HIV attending medical and/or social service appointments. Daily, weekly and monthly discounted EASY Tickets are available when using the discounted EASY Tickets option. Alternative methods (such as ride-sharing services like Uber, UberHealth, Lyft, etc.) may be available, where requested by a Part A/MAI-funded subrecipient and approved by the Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget-Grants Coordination.

Providers of discounted EASY Tickets must demonstrate coordination with Miami-Dade County transportation agencies and services, Medicaid Special Transportation, Miami-Dade County Special Transportation Services (STS), and other existing transportation programs to avoid duplication of services. In addition, providers of transportation tickets are encouraged to apply annually to the Miami-Dade Transit Agency's Transportation Disadvantaged Program (<http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/transportation-disadvantaged-program-guidelines.asp>) in order to obtain assistance for clients who are eligible under that program, where applicable. As a reminder, in all cases, the Ryan White Program must be used as the payer of last resort.

- A. Program Operation Requirements:** Discounted EASY Tickets are available to program-eligible clients who meet the requirements of this service category, for unlimited trips during the calendar month. These specially-designated EASY Tickets will not be usable in other months and are not “re-loadable.”

These monthly transportation tickets should be distributed in a timely manner in order to maximize ticket usage. Unused discounted EASY Tickets (transportation vouchers) **cannot** be returned to the DTPW for credit. Unused or undistributed discounted EASY tickets **cannot** be charged to the Ryan White Program.

Providers must inform clients that this type of assistance is **not** an entitlement. Therefore, the level of assistance provided to individual clients is based on relative need and voucher availability. Clients must also be informed that the availability of transportation tickets is contingent upon funding availability and, therefore, the continuance of this type of assistance is not guaranteed.

Multiple instances of reduced fare transportation assistance per client per month are **NOT** allowed regardless of circumstance, payer source, and/or government assistance program that is using/providing the subsidized fare. As payer of last resort, the Ryan White Program can only reimburse subrecipients (service providers) for EASY Ticket fares (vouchers) distributed to eligible clients that are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to receive subsidized transportation assistance or fares under **ANY OTHER** program. This restriction will be closely monitored by the County's DTPW and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a condition of the Ryan White Program having program access to the discounted EASY Tickets. Lost or stolen EASY tickets **cannot** be replaced by the local Ryan White Part A Program and replacements will not be considered by DTPW.

Regular reconciliation through a secure data system match of clients receiving discounted EASY Tickets through the Ryan White Part A Program will be conducted on a quarterly basis between the County's authorized OMB and DTPW staff, to ensure clients are not receiving more than one (1) instance of reduced fare transportation assistance per month. Clients found to be receiving duplicative discounted transportation services may be banned from receiving any additional assistance from one or both sources (the County's Ryan White Program or DTPW). **Medical Case Managers and Medical Transportation subrecipients must inform clients of this restriction and the reconciliation process.**

Prior to distributing these transportation vouchers, **subrecipients of Medical Transportation services must ensure that clients:** 1) review and sign the "Miami-Dade County Ryan White Part A Program Acknowledgement to Receive Monthly Transportation Assistance" attesting to their understanding of this restriction, including consent for the reconciliation data system match; 2) indicate that they have not received other discounted transportation assistance for the same month; and 3) indicate that they do not qualify to receive free or subsidized transportation assistance (fare) from any other program. This client acknowledgement/consent form is required prior to the client receiving a discounted EASY Ticket **each month**. A copy of the acknowledgement for each month of service must be maintained in the client's record/chart at the Medical Transportation subrecipient's site.

Providers must document criteria, policies, and procedures utilized to determine transportation EASY Tickets allotments for clients that must take into account not only minimum requirements, but also consideration for those clients who demonstrate the greatest need for these services. This documentation must be provided to the Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget-Grants Coordination upon request.

Documentation of at least one (1) monthly medical and/or social service appointments must be submitted by the client to the Medical Case Manager before the client can receive transportation assistance, unless otherwise directed by the

County. The number of required appointments is subject to change at the County's discretion with no less than thirty (30) days' written notice to all Part A/MAI-funded subrecipient agencies. Attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings also count towards the monthly appointment total. Any combination of medical, social service, AA, and/or NA appointments will count towards the required monthly total.

If allowable appointments are appropriately documented in the Client Profile in the Provide® Enterprise Miami data management system for each month of service, the Ryan White Program will not restrict the total number of months in which the client can receive transportation services during the grant Fiscal Year. Service providers will monitor the consistency of client attendance at these monthly medical and/or social service appointments to ensure compliance with the requirement for use of transportation vouchers under this program. If clients are non-adherent to appointments this must be documented and service providers will have the discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to not issue a voucher to continually non-compliant clients. "Non-compliant" is defined herein as two missed appointments in two consecutive months (e.g., two months in which two or more appointments have been missed each month without acceptable excuse or cancellation for cause by client would be considered non-compliant). Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget-Grants Coordination staff will also monitor compliance with this restriction.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Alternative methods of Medical Transportation service delivery are only available at select subrecipient agencies as a result of the corresponding Request for Proposals Process and subsequent contract negotiations.

- B. Rules for Reimbursement:** Discounted EASY Tickets cost \$56.25 per monthly ticket (1-Month Pass), \$14.60 per weekly ticket (7-Day Pass), and \$2.80 per daily ticket (1-Day Pass); and these rates may be subject to change. The number of discounted EASY Tickets available for distribution should be consistent throughout the duration of the contract period, unless the cost of these EASY Tickets changes, and must take into consideration the total budget request, agency capacity, client eligibility, and demand for this service. Ride-share services will be reimbursed based on the cost of each one-way trip. Providers will be reimbursed based on properly documented service utilization reports from the Provide® Enterprise Miami data management system, indicating the date of discounted EASY Ticket distribution or ride-share trip, client CIS number, and dollar amount including dispensing charge. Dispensing charges, not to exceed 15% (or as may be adjusted by the County due to formula calculations on the budget form), will be reimbursed after services have been provided, client utilization and disbursement information is submitted to the County, and vendor payment has been documented. This service is subject to audit by the Office of Management and Budget-Grants Coordination. Discounted EASY Ticket orders, invoices, and payments, as well as monthly distribution logs and acknowledgement of program limitations signed by the client

and scanned into the Provide® Enterprise Miami data management system, or ride-share logs where applicable, will be reviewed.

The following billing codes shall be used:

- **TRANSPORTATION VOUCHERS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT (DISCOUNTED EASY TICKETS)**

- Service Name = “EASY Ticket – Monthly Pass” with Service Code = “EASYM”
 - A maximum of one (1) may be distributed per client per service month; no exception. **Lost, stolen or damaged tickets are not replaceable.**
- Service Name = “EASY Ticket – Weekly Pass” with Service Code = “EASYW”
 - A maximum of three (3) weekly tickets may be distributed per client per service month. If another week is/was needed, a monthly pass should be used.
- Service Name = “EASY Ticket – Daily Pass” with Service Code = “EASYD”
 - A maximum of four (4) daily tickets may be distributed per client per service month. If more days are/were needed, a weekly or monthly pass should be used.

- **RIDE-SHARE:**

- Service Name – “Uber/Lyft Ride” with Service Code = “RIDE”
 - Uber/Lyft Ride – Home to Provider
 - Uber/Lyft Ride – Provider to Home
 - Uber/Lyft Ride – Provider to Provider

- **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- In the Provide® Enterprise Miami data management system, a pop-up warning will appear if two of the same ride types are entered for the same day for a given client. The warning will suggest the user document the reason for the potential “duplicate” service in the Comments field to prevent the County from rejecting the service in the monthly payment request.

- Medical case management (MCM) staff cannot use MCM encounter billing codes for time spent scheduling ride-share (e.g., Uber, UberHealth, Lyft, etc.) trips for a client with the ride-share transportation company. This activity is part of the dispensing fee allowable under the Medical Transportation service category if line items other than purchasing ride-share trips are included in the Medical Transportation budget.

C. Additional Rules for Reporting: Providers must report monthly activity according to the type and dollar amount of the tickets issued, the number of tickets distributed, date of distribution per client, and the unduplicated number of clients served; or number of one-way ride share trips per client, where applicable. As stated above in Medical Transportation section A above, a reconciliation data system match will be conducted of all clients receiving discounted EASY Tickets through the Ryan White Part A Program. This reconciliation review will be conducted by the County's authorized Ryan White Program Recipient (OMB) and DTPW staff.

D. Special Client Eligibility Criteria: A Ryan White Program In Network Referral or an Out of Network Referral (a non-certified referral accompanied by all appropriate supporting documentation) is required for this service and must be updated annually, every 366 days. Clients receiving Ryan White Part A Program-funded Medical Transportation assistance must be documented as having gross household incomes below 400% of the 2024⁵ Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Clients receiving discounted EASY Tickets (transportation vouchers) must be documented as having been properly screened for other public sector funding as appropriate annually, every 366 days. While clients qualify for and can access other public funding [including, but not limited to, Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA), or Medicaid Long-term Care (LTC) transportation services; or the County's Golden Passport program, Mobility EASY card program or Community-Reduced Fare program etc.) for transportation services], they will not be eligible for Ryan White Part A Program-funded Medical Transportation (discounted EASY Tickets or limited ride-share) assistance.