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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 96 LCM-41

Date: May 3, 1996

Division: Health and Long
Term Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Helicopter Air Ambulance Service: Reimbursement Amounts

ATTACHMENTS: None

PURPOSE

This memorandum is to serve as a reminder to district staff as to Medicaid reimbursement amounts for helicopter air ambulance services.

BACKGROUND

A recent article in the Albany Times Union drew attention to the continued expansion of air ambulance service. The article referenced the emergence of a new air helicopter called "Albany Med Flight" which is a joint venture between Albany Medical Center and a private helicopter concern, Rocky Mountain Helicopter. The helicopter air ambulance service, which began February 26, 1996, will provide emergency rotary wing ambulance service to 25 counties in northeastern New York.

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Current Medicaid reimbursement is outlined in Informational Letter 94 INF-6 dated January 31, 1994, "Air Ambulance Transportation for Medical Care". This letter states the following helicopter air ambulance reimbursement amounts:

Lift-off from base (for all providers except LaSalle Mercy Flight)	\$200
LaSalle Mercy Flight Lift-off from base	\$100
Patient Occupied Flight Time	\$15 per minute

If you have any questions surrounding helicopter air ambulance services and Medicaid reimbursement policy, please contact Anne Reznikoff of the Medicaid Transportation Unit at 1-800 343-8859, ext. 35983, or Sperrylink user identification number AW7870.

Richard T. Cody
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Health and Long Term Care