

**TO: ALL PROVIDERS**

**FROM: CAREFIRST OF MARYLAND INC., MEDICARE PART A**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2005**

**SUBJECT: MEDICAL REVIEW OF RURAL AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES**

This article provides instructions to air ambulance providers for submission of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protocols per information found in CMS Pub 100-08 Transmittal 102 CR3571 and Medlearn Matters Number: MM3571.

Section 415 of the Medicare Modernization act of 2003 states that the reasonable and necessary requirement for rural air transport may be “deemed” to be met when the service is provided pursuant to an established State or regional EMS agency protocol. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) defines “established” to mean those protocols, which have been reviewed and approved by State EMS agencies or have been developed according to State EMS umbrella guidelines. Additionally, the protocol must be recognized or approved by the Secretary.

Air ambulance providers must submit their written EMS protocols to CareFirst for review and approval at the following mailing address:

Janice Austin, RN  
Utilization Review Specialist  
CareFirst of MD, Inc.  
Medicare Part A/Medical Review  
1946 Greenspring Dr  
Timonium, MD 21093

You may also submit the EMS protocol electronically at [janice.austin@carefirst.com](mailto:janice.austin@carefirst.com).

CareFirst will notify the provider of all protocol review decisions within 30 days of the receipt of the protocol.

If you have any questions you can contact Janice Austin, RN at 410-561-4158.