

MDS Alert

What Do You Think? Does Medicare Ever Cover Wheelchair Vans, Medivans, Etc.?

Can you bill Part A-stay residents or their responsible parties for this service?

A private-pay nursing home resident with Part B insurance requires a wheelchair van or other non-ambulance medical transportation to go to the doctor's office. Will Medicare Part B pick up the tab? Is non-ambulance transportation sometimes included in the Part A SNF per diem?

The answer on both counts is No. Non-ambulance transportation is not covered at all by Medicare, says **Jennifer Wormington**, managing consultant for BKD LLP in Springfield, Mo. "In such cases, the facility can bill the resident or responsible party for the non-ambulance transportation if they give the resident or responsible party notice before providing the service," she says. "The resident/responsible party may want to make other arrangements, such as having a family member take the person."