

514C.16 Emergency room services.

1. A carrier, as defined in section 513B.2; an organized delivery system authorized under 1993 Iowa Acts, chapter 158, and licensed by the director of public health; or a plan established pursuant to chapter 509A for public employees, which provides coverage for emergency services, is responsible for charges for emergency services provided to a covered individual, including services furnished outside any contractual provider network or preferred provider network. Coverage for emergency services is subject to the terms and conditions of the health benefit plan or contract.

2. Prior authorization for emergency services shall not be required. All services necessary to evaluate and stabilize an emergency medical condition shall be considered covered emergency services.

3. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

a. "Emergency medical condition" means a medical condition that manifests itself by symptoms of sufficient severity, including but not limited to severe pain, that an ordinarily prudent person, possessing average knowledge of medicine and health, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in one of the following:

(1) Placing the health of the individual, or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy.

(2) Serious impairment to bodily function.

(3) Serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part.

b. "Emergency services" means covered inpatient and outpatient health care services that are furnished by a health care provider who is qualified to provide the services that are needed to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition.