

Up-to-Date with Alaska Medicaid

A Monthly Newsletter for Alaska Medicaid Providers

July 2018

Conduent

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<http://medicaidalaska.com>

Phone Numbers

907.644.6800
800.770.5650 (toll-free)

Fraud and Abuse Hotline

907.644.5975 or
800.256.0930 (toll-free)

Recipient Services

907.644.6800, option 6
800.780.9972, option 2 (toll-free)

Provider Inquiry

907.644.6800, option 1
800.770.5650, option 1, 1 (toll-free)

Provider Enrollment

<https://medicaidalaska.com/portals/wps/portal/ProviderEnrollment>

Fax Numbers

SA.....	907.644.8131
SA Travel, MRI	907.644.5982
SA Mental Health	866.653.1435
SUR	907.644.8128
EPS	907.644.9845
Finance	907.644.8120
Training.....	907.644.9845
Attachments.....	907.644.8122
or	907.644.8123
Enrollment	907.646.4273
Provider Inquiry.....	907.644.8126

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Rate Increases for FY2019; Delayed Rate Reductions for FY2018

On April 12, 2017 the Department of Health and Social Services public noticed proposed cost-containment regulations necessary to meet budgetary constraints. The changes were proposed to reduce rates for facilities and other providers, and disregard the FY2018 annual inflation-based changes for physicians and other professional providers whose rates are subject to the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) methodology. Following an extended public comment period, the proposed regulations were filed by the lieutenant governor on August 21, 2017, with an October 1, 2017 effective date. The signed regulations are available at

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=109017>.

Facility and other provider rate reductions were implemented as scheduled, however modifications to RBRVS-based rates were delayed until June 11, 2018. As the RBRVS-based rate adjustments occur, you will see the slight changes in your weekly remittance advice.

The annual RBRVS rate adjustment for FY2019, effective July 1, 2018, will result in an overall net .05 percent increase in RBRVS-based rates, which will partially offset rate decreases that occur as a result of the October 1, 2017 regulations. FAQs are available at <http://manuals.medicicaidalaska.com/docs/updates.htm>. If you have any questions that are not answered in the RBRVS Rate Adjustment FAQs, please email them to Susan Dunkin at susan.dunkin@alaska.gov.

Ambulance Rates for Services Originating in Fairbanks

Based on population size, the U.S. Census Bureau now classifies Fairbanks as urban (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-27/pdf/2012-6903.pdf>). Effective for dates of service on and after August 1, 2018, claims for ambulance services originating in Fairbanks will be paid at urban rates instead of rural rates. The current transportation fee schedule is available at <http://manuals.medicicaidalaska.com/medicaidalaska/providers/FeeSchedule.asp>.

Coagulation Factors II and V Coverage Criteria

In accordance with 7 AAC 105.100, Alaska Medicaid will pay for medically necessary 81240 F2 (Prothrombin, Coagulation Factor II) and 81241 FV (Coagulation Factor V) gene analysis in accordance with the following coverage criteria:

- Covered only for members age birth through 20 who meet at least one of the following criteria: spontaneous thrombosis and/or non-catheter related venous thrombosis or stroke
- Not covered for routine screening for pregnant women
- Not covered for adults with idiopathic venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- Not covered for adult family members of individuals with identified genetic mutations

Holiday Closures

The State of Alaska and Conduent offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, 2018 in observance of Independence Day.

Hotel Voucher and Double Occupancy Rate Changes Effective 7/1/18

Alaska Medicaid members and their travel escort(s) are expected to stay in the same room when traveling for healthcare reasons. Effective July 1, 2018, multiple hotel units will not be authorized for the member and escort for the same overnight stay.

For providers arranging patient travel:

When issuing a hotel voucher, authorize only one unit for each night of the stay, whether the stay is for the member, the escort, or both. For additional information, please see provider flyer “Lodging and Prematernal Home Unit Guidance” available on the Provider Updates page at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/updates.htm>.

For hotel providers submitting claims:

The department will pay a single rate per night, regardless of the number of individuals staying in the room. The department will not pay for separate rooms and will not pay a higher rate for double occupancy. For additional information, please see provider flyer “Billing Guidance: Lodging Unit Changes” available on the Provider Updates page at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/updates.htm>.

Inhaler Assist Devices (Spacers) and Nebulizer Claims

Inhaler assist devices, also known as spacers (A4627 SPACER, BAG OR RESERVOIR, WITH OR WITHOUT MASK, FOR USE WITH METERED DOSE INHALER), used with meter dose inhalers, are medical supplies covered by Alaska Medicaid. Similar to diabetic supplies, spacers may be billed by Alaska Medicaid enrolled medical suppliers.

Alaska Medicaid does not require use of a specific brand of spacer. Claims for spacers or nebulizers submitted by a pharmacy through the pharmacy point-of-sale system that do not result in a paid claim should be submitted as a medical supply/DME claim.

Questions about enrolling as a medical supplier? Contact Provider Enrollment at 907.644.6800, option 2, or toll-free in Alaska at 800.770.5650, option 1, 3.

Questions about billing for medical supplies? Contact Provider Inquiry at 907.644.6800, option 1, 1, or toll-free in Alaska at 800.770.5650, option 1, 1, 1.

CMS NCCI MUE Update – A9900 and A9901 Guidance

Effective October 1, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Medically Unnecessary Edit (MUE) update reducing the allowed units for codes A9900 and A9901 from one unit to zero units.

As a result of this change, Alaska Medicaid will no longer reimburse claim lines submitted with code A9900 or A9901. Until further notice, DME service delivery and dispensing expenses (7 AAC 120.200) may be submitted to Alaska Medicaid using HCPCS code A9999 and **modifier CG**.

Claims must conform to all state and federal regulations and rules to be eligible for payment. Providers seeking reimbursement for delivery and dispensing services are responsible for appropriate claims submission.

Additional information regarding CMS Medically Unlikely Edits is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodingInitEd/MUE.html>.

Changes to Alaska Medicaid Recordkeeping, Self-Review, and Audit Regulations

The Department of Health and Social Services recently revised Alaska Medicaid regulations regarding recordkeeping, audits, self-reviews, and other quality assurance efforts. The revised regulations apply to all Medicaid-enrolled providers and will be effective June 7, 2018.

An overview of the regulations is available at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/updates.htm>. A copy of the regulations, signed by the Lieutenant Governor, is available at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=112295>.

Air Ambulance Services Require Medical Justification Only; Authorization No Longer Required

Effective July 1, 2018, air ambulance claims must be accompanied by medical justification and a completed [Air Ambulance Flight Summary](http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/forms.htm) (available at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/forms.htm>). Air ambulance claims no longer require authorization. Air ambulance providers are encouraged to continue to submit authorization requests in advance of backhauls.

Prematernal Home Changes Effective 7/1/18

Alaska Medicaid members and their escort(s) are expected to stay in the same prematernal home room. Effective July 1, 2018, multiple prematernal home units will no longer be authorized for the member and escort for the same overnight stay. Prematernal homes may bill and be reimbursed for each Medicaid member staying in the prematernal home for the purpose of receiving authorized prematernal home services, even if multiple Medicaid members stay in the same room. For additional information, please see provider flyer "Lodging and Prematernal Home Unit Guidance" available on the Provider Updates page at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/updates.htm>.

Changes to Dental Service Authorizations

Effective July 1, 2018, service authorization approvals for dental appliances (e.g., crowns, dentures) will be valid for ninety days from the date the authorization was requested. If the approved service does not occur within the ninety-day period, the provider must complete and submit a Dental Service Authorization Update Request form. Except for orthodontic services, authorization approvals for all other dental services will be valid for the requested date of service only. If the scheduled service does not occur on that date, the provider must complete and submit a Dental Service Authorization Update Request form.

The Dental Service Authorization Request and Dental Service Authorization Update Request forms are available at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/forms.htm>.

Questions? Contact Mary Hansen at mary.hansen@alaska.gov or 907.334.2403.



Provider Training Dates

In July, training is scheduled in Anchorage and via Instructor-led Webinar. In August, training is scheduled in Kenai and via Instructor-led Webinar.

July	
Webinar	July 10 — 12
Anchorage	July 24 — 26
August	
Webinar	August 7 — 9
Kenai	August 28 & 30

Register Today!

Alaska Medicaid training courses will guide you and your staff in understanding and billing for services reimbursed by Alaska Medicaid and Denali KidCare. Included are introductory courses such as Member Eligibility, Adjustments and Voids, Claims Management, and Service Authorizations. Register online at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/akmedicaidtraining.htm>.

15th Annual Rochester Optical Open House

On Thursday, July 26th, 2018, at 2:15 pm, Rochester Optical, the Alaska Medical Assistance eyewear contractor, will host their 15th annual **Open House** for ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, and their staff, who provide vision care services to Alaska Medicaid and Denali KidCare recipients.

Experienced representatives from Rochester Optical will present their current product line and services and discuss ordering procedures. They will also be available to meet with providers one-on-one to discuss current issues and answer questions. Please join us!

Rochester Optical Open House

July 26th at 2:15 pm

1835 South Bragaw Street

Suite 390 (3rd Floor Conduent Training Room)

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Your reservation is appreciated, but not required. Please complete the information on the reverse of this invitation and return it to **Ryan Bender**, Vision Services Program Manager, at ryan.bender@alaska.gov or by fax at 907.561.1684. You may also contact Ryan at 907.334.2419.



We also invite you to attend Alaska Medicaid Vision Services training beginning at 8:30 a.m. preceding the Rochester Optical Open House. Knowledgeable Conduent trainers will provide guidance on Alaska Medicaid program regulations and discuss billing procedures, service authorization procedures, and other vision care provider topics of interest.

8:30 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	Introduction to Alaska Medicaid
10:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	Vision Claims Management
1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	Vision Services

To register for training, please visit the Alaska Medicaid Learning Portal at <http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/akmedicaidtraining.htm> and follow the registration instructions, or contact Conduent Provider Training staff at 907.644.6800 or 800.770.5650 (toll free in Alaska). You may also complete and return the information on the 2nd page of this invitation.



**Rochester Optical Open House &
Vision Services Provider Training
July 26th, 2018**

Practice Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

NPI or Alaska Medicaid ID Number _____

Number Attending:

- _____ 8:30 a.m. – Introduction to Alaska Medicaid
- _____ 10:00 a.m. – Vision Claims Management
- _____ 1:00 p.m. – Vision Services
- _____ 2:15 p.m. – Rochester Optical Open House

Attendee Name(s):

Please return this form to **Ryan Bender**, Vision Services Program Manager, at ryan.bender@alaska.gov or by fax at 907.561.1684. If you have any questions, or if we may be of further assistance, please contact Ryan at 907.334.2419.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, July 26th!