

Up-to-Date with Alaska Medicaid

A Monthly Newsletter for Alaska Medicaid Providers

January 2021

Conduent

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

Provider Inquiry

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800.770.5650, option 1, 1 (toll-free)

Provider Enrollment

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

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Alaska Medicaid COVID-19 Response

In response to the national public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 virus, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has issued health mandates and implemented temporary policy changes to the Alaska Medicaid Program. For frequent updates on DHSS' response to COVID-19, refer to the [Alaska Medicaid Health Enterprise home page](#).

Questions? Please contact Provider Inquiry at 907.644.6800, option 1, 1 or toll-free in Alaska at 800.770.5650, option 1, 1, 1.

Revised Billing Requirements – 48 Hour Observation Limit

Effective for dates of service on and after 01/28/2021, report actual number of hospital outpatient observation hours on a single claim line using revenue code 0762. The use of revenue code 0900 is no longer required. Payment is limited to the number of hours billed or 48 hours, whichever is less.

Medicaid Regulations Filed: 48 Hour Observation Services Limit Eff. 01/28/2021

[Regulations establishing a 48 hour observation limit](#) are effective 01/28/2021, and temporary expanded coverage will end. Billing guidelines will be published prior to the effective date.

Holiday Closures

The State of Alaska offices will be closed Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Monday, February 15, 2021 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Medicaid Regulations Filed: Pharmacy Services During a Declared Disaster Emergency

[Medicaid Pharmacy Services During a Declared Disaster Emergency](#) regulations are effective 02/12/2021.

Medicaid Regulations Filed: Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) System for Personal Care Services

[Medicaid Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) System for Personal Care Services](#) regulations are effective 02/12/2021.

EVV Deadline January 1, 2021

The 21st Century Cures Act requires that providers of Medicaid Personal Care Services begin collecting data using an approved Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system on January 1, 2021.

The Department of Health and Social Services has chosen Therap Services, LLC to provide EVV system and aggregator functionality. Providers may choose an alternate third-party EVV system that meets Cures Act requirements, if approved, to connect to Therap's aggregator.

Questions about EVV, Therap Services or connecting to the data aggregator for third party EVV systems? Visit [Therap Services, LLC](#).

NDC Requirements for Practitioner-Administered Vaccines

Effective January 10, 2021, all claims for vaccine products must be submitted with the national drug code (NDC). Claims received for vaccine products without an associated NDC will be denied. For more information on submitting a claim with the NDC, please see the [NDC Requirements and Policy Guidance](#).

DSP Hire Assists Providers with filling Vacant Positions

Organizations and agencies that hire direct support professionals can now post available jobs at [DSP Hire](#). The resource is available at no cost to providers and applicants. Questions? Contact kim@champneyconsulting.com.

Medicaid Regulations Filed: Vaccine Coverage and Payment

[Medicaid Vaccine Coverage and Payment](#) regulations are effective 01/10/2021.

Updated Provider Billing Manual Now Available for Air and Ground Ambulance

An updated Alaska Medicaid provider billing manual is now available for air and ground ambulance services. Updates include:

- Additional guidance on exception resolution (see Section II: Transportation & Accommodation Claims Management > Remittance Advice, Adjustments, and Voids > Exception Resolution)
- New guidance on rural reimbursement for Medicare Crossover claims (Section I: Air and Ground Ambulance Services > Claim Submission > Urban versus Rural Locations)
- Clarification on required documentation for air ambulance mileage (Section I > Claim Submission > Billing for Ambulance Services)
- Updated Air Ambulance Flight Summary Guidance (Section I > Claim Submission > Air Ambulance Claim Submissions)

To view this manual, visit <http://medicaidalaska.com> and select Provider > Billing Manuals > click here> click on the Air and Ground Ambulance book on the provider billing manual bookshelf. If you have difficulty accessing your billing manual online, please call the Provider Inquiry Unit at 907.644.6800, option 1, 1 or toll-free in Alaska at 800.770.5650, option 1, 1, 1, for assistance.

Medicaid Regulations Filed: Care Management Program

[Medicaid Care Management Program](#) regulations are effective 01/01/2021.

Emergency Regulations Made Permanent: Health Information Disclosure

Emergency [permitted disclosure of identifiable health information for public health purposes](#) regulations are permanent, effective 09/21/2020 and 01/06/2021.

Clarification on Documentation Requirements for Air Ambulance Providers

Patient loaded miles documented on the Air Ambulance Flight Summary Form must be supported by attached flight records indicating the exact recorded patient loaded miles. The recorded miles must indicate if they are nautical or statute. Claims received without the supporting medical justification for the mileage will be denied.

Provider Self-Audit Enforcement

The Department of Health and Social Services would like to thank the many providers who have already completed and submitted their self-audits under 7 AAC 160.115. Due to the current Public Health Emergency and the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, DHSS will not be strictly enforcing the deadline for provider self-audits until March 31, 2021. All providers are expected to adhere to 7 AAC 160.115 by that time and submit information earlier if possible. If you need technical assistance, our [website](#) provides helpful tools or you can email QAPIProgramIntegrity@alaska.gov.

Provider Class Action Settlement Announced

On 11/27/2020, a class action settlement was announced in the case of South Peninsula Hospital, et al. v. Xerox State Healthcare, n/k/a Conduent State Healthcare. The settlement applies to all Alaska Medicaid-enrolled providers that submitted Medicaid claims during the period from 01/01/2013 – 12/31/2016. For more information, including how to submit a claim, visit the [settlement website](#).

Proposed Regulations: Ambulatory Surgical Center Requirements & Miscellany

New [Ambulatory Surgical Center Requirements & Miscellany](#) regulations were proposed on 12/03/2020.

CDC Training for Nursing Facility Management and Staff

As part of continued efforts to ensure the safety of residents and staff of Alaska's SNFs, DHSS is reminding administrators to ensure that all management and staff, both clinical and non-clinical, complete [CMS COVID Training](#). Developed in consultation with the CDC and released on 08/25/2020, this free training is divided into modules that include topics such as infection control, screening and surveillance, personal protective equipment (PPE) usage, disinfection of the facility, cohorting, and caring for individuals with dementia during a pandemic. Please visit [CMS COVID Training](#) to create an account and complete this important training.

Record Requirements for Nonemergency Ground Transportation Claims

Effective January 1, 2021, claims submitted by nonemergency ground transportation providers billing at \$89.00 or higher per trip must include a copy of the voucher and supporting documentation for the trip. Original vouchers and documentation must be kept by the provider.

Claims for dates of service on or after January 1, 2021 that are submitted without the appropriate supporting documentation will be denied.

Submit claim attachments with a completed [fax attachment cover sheet](#) and to 907.644.8122 or 907.644.8123.

For available provider training on these new requirements, please visit the [Alaska Medicaid Learning Portal](#).

Regulations Filed: Health Care Pricing Transparency

New [health care pricing transparency regulations](#) are effective 12/20/2020.

Pharmacy Program Updates – November 2020

The Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy Program November 2020 Update is now available on the Provider Updates page. In this update you will find information about pharmacy changes resulting from the work of the Alaska Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Committee, including:

- New specific clinical prior authorization criteria effective 1/11/2021.
- Updates to existing prior authorization criteria effective 1/11/2021.
- New Medications have been added to the Interim Prior Authorization list updated 11/20/2020.
- Insulin pens allowed day supply increased to 90 days.
- Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) threshold will be reduced to 200 MME on 01/06/2021.

Provider Training Dates

In January and February, all training is scheduled via Instructor-led Webinar.

January	
Webinar	January 19 — 21
February	
Webinar	February 2 — 4
Webinar	February 16 — 18

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 through the [Alaska Medicaid Learning Portal](#).



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