

# Up-to-Date with Alaska Medicaid

A Monthly Newsletter for Alaska Medicaid Providers

February 2021

## Conduent

1835 S. Bragaw St., Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99508-3469

## Web Address

<http://medicaidalaska.com>

## Fraud and Abuse Hotline

907.644.5975 or  
800.256.0930 (toll-free)

## Recipient Services

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

## Provider Inquiry

907.644.6800, option 1 or  
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.

## Proposed Regulations: Medicaid Employment Services Coverage

New [Medicaid Employment Services Coverage](#) regulations were proposed on 01/27/2021.

## Pharmacy Program Updates – January 2021

The Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy Program January 2021 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 3/15/2021.
- Updates to existing prior authorization criteria effective 3/15/2021.
- New Medications have been added to the Interim Prior Authorization list updated 1/15/2021.
- New preferred drug list updates will become effective on or after 3/1/2021.
- Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) threshold was reduced to 200 MME on 01/06/2021.

## 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.

## 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.

## Medicaid Regulations Filed: Vaccine Coverage and Payment

Medicaid Vaccine Coverage and Payment regulations are effective 01/10/2021.

## 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](mailto:kim@champneyconsulting.com).

## 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](mailto:QAPIProgramIntegrity@alaska.gov).

## 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.

## Holiday Closures

The State of Alaska offices will be closed Monday, February 15, 2021 in observance of Presidents' Day and Monday, March 29, 2021 in observance of Seward's Day.

## 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.

## Proposed Regulations: Ambulatory Surgical Center Requirements & Miscellany

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

## Provider Training Dates

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

February	
Webinar	February 2 — 4
Webinar	February 16 — 18
March	
Webinar	March 2 — 4
Webinar	March 16 — 18
Webinar	March 23 — 25

## 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](#).