

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

**ANCHORAGE OFFICE**

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August 15, 2008

Dear Provider:

Effective May 1, 2008, independently practicing psychologists may enroll with Alaska Medical Assistance and be reimbursed directly for covered services rendered to eligible recipients. The Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) has been revised to support this initiative and is now processing claims for psychologist services.

To be eligible for reimbursement, a psychologist must:

- enroll in the Alaska Medicaid program
- provide documentation of an active license issued by the state where services are provided
- maintain that license throughout the enrollment period and
- maintain records of all services provided as required by Alaska regulations

In addition, psychologists practicing out of state must be enrolled in the Medicaid program in that state.

An enrollment application can be obtained by visiting the First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) Website at <https://alaska.fhsc.com/providers/Enrollment.asp>. Please complete the *Standard Provider Enrollment Form* and mail it to the address indicated on the application. Once the application is processed, you will receive a welcome packet, your Alaska Medical Assistance Provider ID, and an initial supply of claim forms.

If you conduct standard Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) electronic transactions or have others do so on your behalf, you are **required** to obtain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) and use it on claims submitted for reimbursement. To apply for the NPI:

- Visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nationalprovidentstand>, or
- Call (800) 465-3203 or (800) 692-2326 (TTY), or
- Mail your application to the NPI Enumerator, P.O. Box 6059, Fargo, ND 58108-6059

Covered psychologist services are limited to medically necessary psychological testing to determine the status of a recipient's mental, intellectual, and emotional functioning. Testing services must be provided directly by the psychologist and include administration of psychodiagnostic tests, the interpretation of the results of the tests, and a written report.

Payment is limited to the following services:

- Psychological testing
- Assessment of aphasia
- Developmental testing
- Neurobehavioral status exam and
- Neuropsychological testing

The corresponding procedure codes and maximum allowable amounts for the services listed above can be viewed on the *Psychologist Services Fee Schedule* at <https://alaska.fhsc.com/providers/FeeSchedule.asp>.

Psychologists are required to obtain a referral from the recipient's treating physician, a physician assistant, an advanced nurse practitioner, a community mental health clinic, a local or tribal health department or health clinic, or an appropriate school official. The referral must document the purpose for the testing, including the need to determine acuity of need, severity of symptoms, or level of impairment.

The psychologist must keep a specific record of all services that:

- Identifies the source and reason for the referral
- Identifies the questions and issues that the testing addressed
- Identifies the psychological tests and techniques used and
- Includes the interpretation of all completed and attempted tests with observations, conclusions, and recommendations

The provider must maintain the records to support the care and units of services for which payment is requested for at least seven years from the date services were provided.

Psychologist services may be administered in

- the psychologist's office
- an outpatient hospital or outpatient clinic
- an acute inpatient hospital or inpatient psychiatric hospital
- a local or tribal health clinic
- a residential psychiatric treatment center or
- another setting appropriate for patient care

Alaska Medical Assistance claims must be submitted within 12 months of the date services were rendered to the recipient. Claims can be submitted electronically using the 837 Professional format or on paper by using the *CMS-1500 Health Insurance Claim Form*. Electronic claims may be transmitted through PayerPath®, a free web-based solution, or through a commercially purchased medical billing software application. For further information on electronic transactions, please refer to the *Implementation Guides* at <http://www.wpc-edi.com>, or the *Companion Guides* at <https://alaska.fhsc.com/providers/hipaa/guide.asp>.

You may also contact FHSC's Electronic Commerce Customer Support at (907) 644-6800 or (800) 770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska). CMS-1500 claim form completion details can be found on the FHSC Website at <https://alaska.fhsc.com/providers/Billing.asp>.

The new regulations, 7 AAC 43.946, may be read in its entirety at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/cgi-bin/folioisa.dll/aac/query=7+aac+43!2E946/doc/{@36056}?>. If you have any questions or are unable to access the Web, please contact FHSC's Provider Inquiry Unit at (907) 644-6800 or (800) 770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska).

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact Teri Keklak at (907) 269-2050.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Witzler Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Melissa Witzler Stone  
Director

Cc: William Streur, Deputy Commissioner, DHSS