



ATTENTION: ALTERNATIVE BILLING CONCEPTS (ABC) CODES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO END AS OF 12/31/2009

Alaska Medical Assistance will transition from use of Alternative Billing Concepts (ABC) procedure codes. Revising the Behavioral Health billing codes from ABC codes to national standard codes has been a goal of the department for some time. This change will minimize problems providers encounter when billing other third parties or when programming systems to national standards. Because service limits are specified in calendar year limits, changing the code set at the beginning of the year should improve the providers' ability to manage PA requests and track service limit usage. Due to the delay in implementing the new MMIS, the department has recently determined that ACS could proceed with implementing the changes in the current system at this time.

Effective with dates of service on and after January 1, 2010, claims and prior authorization requests for services rendered in 2010 must be reported using national standard codes.

The "old" ABC codes can only be used for billing claims for services rendered **on or before** December 31, 2009. The "new" national codes must be used for billing claims for services rendered **on or after** January 1, 2010.

The "new" prior authorization request form will be required for services provided on or after January 1, 2010 that exceed program service limits. Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) will assist providers with cross-walking the old ABC codes to the new national codes for any 2010 PA requests received on the old PA request form and received by ACS on or before December 15, 2009.

Additional information including a crosswalk from current ABC codes to national codes, updated prior authorization request forms, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are being developed. This information will be made available by December 6, 2009.

Please contact the ACS Provider Inquiry Unit at (907) 644-6800 or (800) 770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska) if you have questions concerning this transition, or have general inquiries regarding the Alaska Medicaid Program. Provider Inquiry staff is available to assist you Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.