



March 20, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Preparedness – Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy Update

Dear Providers,

Various efforts are underway within the Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy program to help our communities and health care providers navigate through the challenges related to the novel coronavirus and COVID-19.

Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy is working on systems-based solutions to address the following:

Refills	Early refill tolerance and accumulation rules were relaxed on 3/11/2020. Refer to the communication dated 3/6/202 for specifics. Alaska Medicaid will reimburse for any emergency refill prescriptions consistent with 12 AAC 52.985(c) & (d).
Days Supply	Alaska Medicaid will be allowing 68-day fills on medications that would otherwise be limited to a 34-day supply. With the allowed accumulation, this permits a patient to be able to have approximately 10 weeks of medication on-hand. If a specific patient condition warrants, individual exceptions for a days supply beyond 68-days can be requested by the Pharmacist by calling the Magellan Clinical Call Center.
Prior Authorization	Alaska Medicaid will be deploying an edit in the system that will grandfather prior authorizations for existing patients to continue to receive their medications without interruption. This continuity of care edit will apply to patients with existing prior authorizations. At this time, prior authorizations for new therapies not received by the patient in the immediately preceding 4 months will still be required. The following provisions will be suspended during the emergency declaration period and for a transition period beyond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edits requiring diagnosis codes for antiviral medications • Requirement for prescribers of buprenorphine-based products to submit standard of practice attestations
Shipping/Postage	Alaska Medicaid currently reimburses for shipping costs of medications. Please refer to the Pharmacy Billing Manual for specifics on how to bill the claim. http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/
Reimbursement	Alaska Medicaid is working on obtaining approval to adjust reimbursement rates for pharmacy services to address the additional costs associated with delivery, off-contract purchasing and drop-shipping due to potential product shortages.

Generic/Brand Availability	Alaska Medicaid will continue to monitor drug supply chain issues. If access issues occur, Alaska Medicaid will take additional steps to ensure access to brand name medications, when necessary, and to provide for reimbursement.
Third Party Liability	Pharmacies, as much as possible, should continue to attempt to bill primary insurance when available. However, given rapid changes in an individual's employment status during this time, we will be bypassing TPL edit rules so as to minimize potential access issues.
Copays	Alaska Medicaid is actively pursuing opportunities for financial relief related to copays. More information will be forthcoming.
Patient Signature/ Documentation of Receipt	Pharmacies should implement alternate means, in lieu of direct patient signature, to capture the delivery of a prescription or other service to a member. Prescribers should maintain a record of who the individual was that received a specific prescription during the emergency declaration period, but pharmacies are not required to obtain a direct signature from the individual.
Care Management Program	Individuals restricted to a specific pharmacy under the Care Management Program will be able to obtain medications from an alternate pharmacy in situations where the registered pharmacy is unable to serve the individual. Pharmacies may call the Magellan Clinical Call Center for patient-level assistance.
Medical Supply: Compounded Hand Sanitizer	Alaska Medicaid will be providing additional information on coverage and reimbursement for compounded hand sanitizer consistent with FDA policy on temporary compounding.
Investigational Drug Coverage	Alaska Medicaid is pursuing coverage opportunities for investigational drugs related to COVID-19, coverage consistent with federal law and regulation. Under current federal law, Medicaid Pharmacy programs are authorized to reimburse for FDA-approved products when the manufacturer participates in the National Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP). [42 USC 1396r-8]
Provider Capacity	Alaska Medicaid is pursuing reimbursement opportunities to aid pharmacists in practicing at the top of their license.

Specific dates of the system changes will be posted within the next week. As the situation around COVID-19 is evolving, the Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy program will continue to evaluate for additional steps and modifications that may be necessary

Pharmacies should contact the **Magellan Clinical Call Center at 800.331.4475** in the event you are assisting a Medicaid member who requires individual, patient-specific consideration. Pharmacists are authorized to request such exceptions on behalf of the prescriber and member. The Magellan Clinical Call Center is prepared to receive phone calls from Pharmacy Providers to assist members during these evolving conditions.

Thank you for serving our members during this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Magellan Clinical Call Center or our staff if you have questions.

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