MEDICAID COMPLIANCE NOTICE
Community Health Aide/Practitioner Supervision and Reimbursement

The Alaska Medicaid program conducted a review of billing practices related to physician supervision of and consultation to community health aide/practitioners (CHA/P). Topics addressed in this notice were selected based on findings of regulatory and policy noncompliance.

This document serves as a supplement to, but not a replacement for Alaska Statute and Administrative Code (regulations), Alaska Medicaid Provider Billing Manuals, and the Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual (CHAM).

CHA/P Supervision

- CHA/Ps may practice only under the supervision of a licensed physician.
- Reimbursement for CHA/P services is made to the group with which the supervising physician is affiliated, and includes supervisory efforts.
- Physician supervision of a CHA/P is not separately reimbursable by Alaska Medicaid.
- A CHA/P request for supervision is not separately reimbursable by Alaska Medicaid.

CHA/P Consultation

- The CHA/P scope of practice is limited; therefore questions regarding treatment or diagnosis outside of the treating CHA/P’s scope of practice must be addressed first with the CHA/P’s supervising physician. Such questions where the supervising physician does not have contact with the patient are solely within the physician’s supervising responsibilities.
- In the event the CHA/P’s supervising physician determines that consultation with another provider at a higher level and/or different specialty is medically necessary, the CHA/P’s supervising physician will order the consultation.
- Consultation may occur in-person or via telemedicine.

CHA/P Consultation via Telemmedicine

- The initial examination performed by a CHA/P, prior to the telemedicine session, may be reimbursed based on the level of care provided by the CHA/P. This initial examination should be billed with the applicable procedure code for that date of service based on CPT guidelines.
- Medically necessary consultation must be ordered by the supervising physician and may occur via a live or interactive session or via a store-and-forward session; the consultation must meet all components of the procedure code billed for the consultation.
- Only the consulting provider is reimbursed when a telemedicine consultation is conducted via a store-and-forward (e.g., forward laboratory or radiology data). Store-and-forward is appropriate when a condition can be visualized and adequately treated with a diagnosis and treatment plan.