



Coverage of COVID-19 Counseling

Effective 8/1/2020 through the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Alaska Medicaid will reimburse physicians and healthcare providers, within their scopes of practice, to counsel Alaska Medicaid members at the time of COVID-19 testing. This includes counseling for the following:

- The immediate need for isolation, even before test results are available
- The importance of self-isolation after they are tested and prior to the onset of symptoms
- The importance of wearing a mask at all times
- The importance of informing their immediate household so they can also be tested for COVID-19
- A review of the member's signs and symptoms
- Services available to them to aid in isolating at home

Additionally, the member should be counseled that if test results are positive they should contact the Alaska Division of Public Health so contact tracing can be initiated. Information regarding this process can be found on the [Alaska COVID-19 website](#).

Alaska Medicaid will cover COVID-19 counseling for all providers eligible to bill evaluation and management (E/M) services (CPT codes 99201-99205 and 99211-99215) and in any location where the test is administered to include doctor's offices, urgent care clinics, hospitals, and pharmacy testing sites. The E/M level billed to the department should incorporate the counseling services; no separate reimbursement for the counseling is available. When submitting a claim for COVID-19 counseling, include the appropriate evaluation and management CPT code (99201-99205 and 99211-99215) along with a CR modifier to indicate the counseling occurred.

The diagnosis on the claim must indicate the service is COVID-19 related. This includes the following diagnosis codes:

- U071.1 – COVID-19 Confirmed Cases
- U07.2 – Unconfirmed suspected cases not expected to be billed
- B97.29 – Other coronavirus as the cause of diseased
- B34.2 – Coronavirus infection, unspecified
- Z03.818 – Suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out
- Z20.828 – Exposure to other viral communicable diseases

Providers should maintain appropriate records to indicate a test was done during the encounter and that the above counseling was completed. Although Alaska Medicaid does not require a standardized counseling checklist, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has developed a checklist that may be utilized during the encounter; the checklist is available on the [CMS website](#).

Questions? Please contact Carrie Silvers at carrie.silvers@alaska.gov or 907.269.4576.