



Alaska Medicaid Policy Update Drug Screening/Testing

The Alaska Medicaid program, administered by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), pays for a service only if it is medically necessary. For the purpose of medical treatment, Alaska Medicaid provides limited coverage of drug screening and testing to detect use of prescribed controlled medications and/or illegal substances. As with all covered services, Alaska Medicaid may request medical records to substantiate the medical necessity of drug screening or testing.

Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2018, Alaska Medicaid adopts the following policy on presumptive and definitive drug testing:

Presumptive Drug Testing

- Presumptive drug tests are covered only when billed with CPT codes 80305 - 80307.
- No other drug screens/tests are covered when performed at the time of an evaluation and management office visit.
- The reimbursement for CPT codes 80305 – 80307 covers screening of one specimen for all drugs tested and should be billed only once per day.
- Alaska Medicaid reimburses for no more than 20 presumptive drug screenings (UDS) per calendar year per Medicaid member.

Definitive Drug Testing

- Definitive drug tests are covered only when billed through free-standing and hospital-based clinical laboratories. Alaska Medicaid will recognize CMS drug testing codes G0480 – G0483 only.
- Reimbursement is not made for CPT codes 80320 – 80377.
- Definitive drug testing is considered medically necessary only when ordered to confirm a positive presumptive drug test, or when a negative result of presumptive test is inconclusive or inconsistent with clinical presentation.
- Definitive drug codes G0480-G0483 cover testing of one or more class(es) of drug(s) and should be billed only once per day.
 - **G0480:** 1 – 7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
 - **G0481:** 8 – 14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
 - **G0482:** 15 – 21 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
 - **G0483:** 22 or more drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed
- Alaska Medicaid reimburses for no more than 20 Definitive drug testing codes (UDS) per calendar year per Medicaid member.