



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## Department of Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
Pharmacy and Ancillary Services Unit

4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24, Bldg L  
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July 24, 2014

Re: FDA approved covered outpatient drugs

Dear Pharmacists, Prescribers, and recipients:

New regulations related to the coverage of outpatient drugs by Alaska Medicaid were finalized and effective on May 18, 2014. One component of the new regulations was a requirement that a covered outpatient drug be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as safe and effective. The pharmacy claims processing system was coded to restrict payment to medications listed as being FDA approved according to the data contained within the First DataBank drug reference file. Shortly after the coding was deployed, the Department received feedback from pharmacy providers that a small number of claims for FDA approved medications were rejecting in the point-of-sale system. As a result of the reports received from pharmacy providers, and to preserve access to covered pharmacy services for Medicaid recipients, the Department removed the new coding from the pharmacy claims processing system while the issue was researched. The Department has identified the issue. Revised coding will be deployed to the pharmacy claims processing system on August 25, 2014 to ensure only those medications approved as safe and effective by the FDA are covered as outpatient drugs under Alaska Medicaid.

Please contact Chad Hope at 907.334.2654 or [chad.hope@alaska.gov](mailto:chad.hope@alaska.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Hope".

Chad Hope, Pharm.D.  
Pharmacy Program Manager