



Sep 2, 2021

RE: Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy Update 09/02/2021 – Coverage Criteria – Ivermectin

Consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(g)(2), Medicaid programs “may exclude or otherwise restrict coverage of a covered outpatient drug if the prescribed use is not for a medically accepted indication.” To be a “medically accepted indication”, the use must be approved under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq*] or supported by approved compendia [42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(k)(6)].

Ivermectin products have not been approved to treat COVID-19. The FDA has provided [guidance to consumers](#) on the appropriate use of ivermectin for clinically appropriate and medically accepted indications. Information on available therapies for COVID-19 can be found on the [State of Alaska COVID-19 Outpatient Treatment](#) site. Medicaid members experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to get tested and speak with their health care provider about available treatment choices.

Members who test positive for COVID-19 are also encouraged to take steps to prevent the transmission or spread of the virus to others. These steps can help protect others within your family and community and help decrease the opportunity for additional virus variants (or new versions of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with different properties) to develop.

Members are reminded that COVID-19 vaccines are a covered service by Alaska Medicaid with no copay and [widely available across the state](#).

Enrolled Medicaid Providers: Ivermectin is not a covered service for COVID-related indications. System updates are in progress to require a diagnosis code on all ivermectin prescriptions. Pharmacies and prescribers are advised that claims for ivermectin reflecting a diagnosis of COVID, exposure to COVID, or other COVID-related diagnoses will be denied and not eligible for reimbursement. Prescribers and pharmacies are further advised that claims, submitted for payment with false or misleading diagnoses for medical and pharmacy services to the Alaska Medicaid program, are subject to relevant state and federal laws and regulations including payment recoupment [[7 AAC 105.400](#)]. Medical visits resulting in cash prescriptions for ivermectin intended to circumvent coverage rules, as with other pharmaceutical therapies, shall be reviewed for clinical appropriateness and subject to payment recoupment pursuant to [7 AAC 105.260](#). Ivermectin prescribed for FDA-labeled indications continue to be a covered service.

Thank you for your continued service to our members during this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff if you have questions. Additionally, concerns may be reported to the Alaska Medicaid Surveillance and Utilization Review ([SUR](#)) program.

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