



Alaska Medicaid Policy Clarification Depression Screening, Counseling, and Interventions for Adolescents and Postpartum Women

Adolescent Depression Screening

Alaska Medicaid covers adolescent depression screening, up to two standardized instruments per episode; use the brief/behavioral assessment CPT code 96127. Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics recommends depression screening annually starting at 12 years of age.

Pregnant and Postpartum Depression Screening

Alaska Medicaid covers pregnant and postpartum depression screening, up to two standardized instruments per episode for CPT code 96127 and one standardized instrument per episode for CPT code 96161.

- Postpartum women eligible for Alaska Medicaid benefits: Use the brief emotional/behavioral assessment CPT code 96127 when billing for depression screening.
- Postpartum women who are not eligible for Alaska Medicaid benefits: Effective April 1st 2021, use the health and hazard assessment CPT code 96161 and bill services under the infant's Alaska Medicaid ID up to one year after birth.

Authorized Provider Types

The following provider types may bill for CPT codes 96127 and 96161: Physician, Physician Assistant, Advance Practice Registered Nurse, Psychologist, and Behavioral Health Aide. School-based services providers may bill for CPT code 96127.

Referrals for Treatment

Persons identified as having increased risk factors for depression should be referred to an appropriate behavioral health provider for appropriate counseling and intervention.