



POLICY CLARIFICATION

Cost of Gloves Used by Assisted Living Employees

To: Durable Medical Equipment/Medical Supply Providers
Assisted Living Facility Providers

From: Erin Narus, Pharm.D., R.Ph.
Pharmacy and Ancillary Services Manager

Subject: Gloves for Assisted Living Facility Medicaid Residents

Date: March 10, 2016

Policy

The cost of gloves used by employees of an assisted living home in the provision of care for a Medicaid-eligible resident are the responsibility of the employer and are not separately reimbursable to the durable medical equipment (DME)/medical supplies provider by the Alaska Medicaid program.

Background

In a recent review of service authorization requests, the Department of Health and Social Services identified instances in which durable medical equipment/medical supplies providers have sought reimbursement for gloves that were supplied to assisted living facilities for Medicaid-eligible residents.

The Department of Health and Social Services reimburses enrolled assisted living facility providers under an inclusive per diem rate. Because the cost of gloves is factored in the assisted living per diem rate as an allowable cost, and because OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910.132; 29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(3))* require employers to provide personal protective equipment, specifically gloves, at no cost to their employees, payment to a durable medical equipment/medical supplies provider for gloves supplied to an assisted living facility for a Medicaid recipient constitutes **duplicate reimbursement** for the same service. When reimbursement of a service is included in a per diem rate paid for by the Department, the cost of the service shall not be passed along to Medicaid beneficiaries nor may reimbursement be sought through alternate channels.

The availability of gloves during the provision of services to patients is important for compliance with universal precautions. We recognize that employers have the utmost concern for their employees and take seriously the responsibility of ensuring the health and safety of their employees and the individuals to whom they provide care.

By May 1, 2016, assisted living facilities and DME/medical supplies providers are advised to review their current practices and ensure that the availability of gloves and any claims submissions with respect to gloves are in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Please contact Kristina Rice, 907.334.2418 or Kristina.Rice@alaska.gov, or me, 907.334.2425 or Erin.Narus@alaska.gov, with any questions you may have.

* https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051