



Alaska Medical Assistance

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Remittance Advice (RA) Message

Title: **Emergency Room Behavioral Health Hold Coverage Max 120 Hours Will End on 12/31/19**

Issue Date: 11/11/2019

Run Length: 8 weeks

Provider Type(s): 001

Message: Effective January 1, 2020, Alaska Medicaid's temporary expanded coverage for behavioral health observation bed services will end. As a result, Medicaid reimbursement for all observation services, including behavioral health, will be limited to 24 consecutive hours.

For dates of service on or before December 31, 2019, Alaska Medicaid will continue to reimburse behavioral health observation bed for a maximum of 120 consecutive hours per episode. All hours must be billed on a single claim line with the appropriate diagnosis codes. If the submitted claim line exceeds 120 consecutive hours, the claim line will be cut back to 120 hours. If additional hours are billed on subsequent lines or a new claim for the same episode, the subsequent line or new claim will be denied.

For dates on and after January 1, 2020, claims submitted for more than 24 hours will be reduced to the 24 hour limit.

Questions? Please contact Sherri LaRue at sherri.larue@alaska.gov.

Superseded by R19079 RA Message