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June '05

alaska MEDICAID NEWSLETTER

First Health Services, in conjunction with the Division of Health Care Services, publishes a monthly newsletter. This newsletter offers providers useful information, monthly reminders, and tips on how to make billing easier.

What's new... NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER

Starting May 23, 2005, all health care providers can apply for their National Provider Identifier (NPI). The NPI will replace health care provider identifiers in use today in standard health care transactions. The health plans with whom you do business will instruct you as to when you may begin using the NPI in standard transactions. All HIPAA covered entities, except small health plans, must begin using the NPI on May 23, 2007; small health plans have until May 23, 2008. For additional information, and to complete an application, visit <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> on the Web.

Also, an instructional Web tool called the NPI Viewlet is now available for viewing at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/npi/npiviewlet.asp> and under "HIPAA Latest News" at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2 on the CMS website. This tool provides an overview of the NPI, a walkthrough of the application, and live links to the NPPES Website where the learner can apply for an NPI. This tool is designed for all health care providers. In the near future, you will also be able to access the viewlet at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> on the Web.

JUNE						
Holiday Closures						
■ S = State Offices Closed						
■ SF = State & FHSC Offices Closed						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Updates...

The following have been updated and are available to you on FHSC's Website at <https://alaska.fhsc.com>:

Provider Billing Manuals

- Inpatient Psychiatric Services
- Family Planing Clinics

Fee Schedules

- Physician
- Dental
- Vision
- Family Planning Clinic
- Direct Entry Midwife

Sorry, wrong number.

Often claims are returned because they contain an invalid, missing, and/or ineligible Provider ID number. It's important to verify the appropriate Provider ID number (the number assigned to you when you enrolled with Alaska Medicaid) in order to avoid a delay in paid claims.

After you make any necessary modifications, return the claim(s) to First Health Services Corp. for timely processing.

To expedite and ensure accurate processing of your claim, please do not send photocopies of claim forms when billing Alaska Medicaid. To obtain original claim forms, contact FHSC at 907-644-6800, fax in a completed Health Care Forms Order Request, or walk in to FHSC to request the forms.

Please refer to your Alaska Medicaid billing manual for additional billing instructions.

Note: Timely filing guidelines require that claims be initially received by FHSC within 12 months of the date of service. Submit your corrected claim(s) and/or completed enrollment application to the appropriate address listed in your Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manual.

If you are not enrolled in the Alaska Medical Assistance Program, please complete and submit an enrollment application to First Health Services Corp. Applications can be downloaded from our Website (<http://alaska.fhsc.com>) or by contacting provider services at the numbers listed below.

If you have more questions, please contact our Provider Inquiry Unit at 907-644-6800 or 1-800-770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska).

*Remember...
FHSC's Provider Inquiry Unit is here to assist you with any questions you may have. Simply call us at (907) 644-6800 or 1-800-770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska). We're here for you!*

CoPay, also known as Cost-Sharing

Alaska Medical Assistance Recipients are expected to take a share of the financial responsibility for their medical care by paying a co-pay known as cost sharing. This cost-sharing amount is collected by physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies and should be collected at the time services are rendered. Providers are not permitted to refuse services if the recipient does not have their cost-sharing amount at the time of service.

The cost-sharing amounts are as follows:

- For physician's services, the cost-sharing amount is \$3.00 per date of service per patient per physician. If a patient comes in twice in the same day to see the same doctor, the doctor does not collect a second co-pay.
- For hospital services, the cost-sharing amount is \$50.00 per day per admission, up to a maximum of \$200.00.
- For pharmaceuticals, the cost-sharing amount is \$2.00 per prescription.
- For Out-Patient, the cost-sharing amount is 5% of allowed charges.

There are several exceptions for cost share; including, but not limited to children (under 18 years of age), pregnant women, long term care recipients, family planning services, hospice patients, and emergency services. Refer to Section I of your billing manual for detailed explanation(s) and information regarding these exceptions.

When filing your claims with Alaska Medical Assistance, do not report the cost sharing amount on your claim form. The computer system which processes your claims, MMIS (Medicaid Management Information System), will automatically subtract the cost-sharing amount from the amount owed to you for services. For example, if your charges equal \$20.00, the system will pay you \$17.00 and you collect the \$3.00 cost-sharing amount from the patient. If you report the \$3.00 on your claim form, Medicaid will deduct that amount also, and you will have to file an adjustment request in order to get paid the additional \$3.00.

For more information regarding this article, please contact our Provider Inquiry Unit at 907-644-6800 or 1-800-770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska).

NEW TO ALASKA
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE,
OR SIMPLY WANTING A
REFRESHER COURSE?

All HIPAA, In-Depth,
Introduction to Medicaid
Billing, and Pharmacy
POS training Webcasts
are on FHSC's Website
for viewing at your leisure.
Visit our Website at
<https://alaska.fhsc.com>
for a full list of available
Webcasts from 2004.

Webcasts are available on
CD upon request. Contact
the Training Dept. through
e-mail (ANCTraining
@fhsc.com), or call us at
(907) 644-6800 or
1-800-770-5650 (toll-free
in Alaska), to request your
CD.

*Watch the RA messages
for the release of the June
- September Training
Schedule.*

Thank you for your participation in
making this program a success.



*Dana Broadwater
Provider Trainer, FHSC*

TRAINING E-MAIL AND FAX NUMBER

Medicaid's training e-mail address (ANCTraining@fhsc.com) is provided for your convenience to send in your questions and comments regarding training offered by FHSC, and to submit completed training registration forms.

Training also provides a fax number (907-644-5900) for your convenience in sending in registration forms or correspondence to FHSC's training department. Remember, our professional staff is ready to assist you, whatever your training needs may be.

Please do not send sensitive or confidential information via e-mail, as this is not a securely protected environment.

Is there a class you'd like to see on the training schedule? Have suggestions or kudos for the class you just completed? Send us an e-mail us and tell us what you're thinking.

June Training

06/15/05 Anchorage
Transportation & Accommodation
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

06/17/05 Teleconference
Transportation & Accommodation
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

06/28/05 Kotzebue
IHS/Tribal
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

NEW Classes for 2005 Provider Training

Medicare Crossovers
Resubmission Turnaround
Documents (RTD)
Enrollment
Appeals II
Attachments
TPL avoidance
Edits II
Medical Justifications for Travel
Lock-in program

The training schedule for the third quarter, June through September, is currently under review. Once the schedule has been finalized, notifications will be sent to all providers with dates, times and locations.

Providers and billing staff are encouraged to attend training. There is no charge to attend, as training is sponsored under contract with the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Health Care Services. All participants are encouraged to bring their provider billing manual(s).

GETTING CLAIMS RESOLUTION TIPS

- Locum tenem providers must be enrolled with Alaska Medicaid if providing services to Alaska Medicaid recipients.
- Physician collaborator services must be billed using the SA modifier. The supervising physician is reimbursed lesser of billed charges or 85% of the RBRVS rate.

here to Recipient Services serve

Many providers call each day for assistance and the time it may take to research each inquiry could be up to 5 business days (e.g. paying claims, call backs for resolution). Please be patient as we are here to serve you with accurate service - in as prompt a time as possible.

Our goal is to give you the best possible service.