



First Health Services Corporation®

A Coventry Health Care Company



January 2006

Alaska Medical Assistance Newsletter

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

Provider Notifications

The following letter was mailed to all provider types on 1/13/06

Medicare Part D covering prescription drugs became effective 1/1/06. Recipients covered under both Medicare and Medicaid will have new carrier codes that indicate their Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) on their Alaska Medical Assistance cards or coupons in addition to federal TPL resource codes (G, H, and J). These carrier codes have also been added to the eligibility information contained in the Eligibility Verification System (EVS). The following carrier codes are valid only for outpatient prescriptions. Dispensing providers are required to bill the PDP carriers.

- M2 STERLING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN
- M9 SILVERSCRIPT
- MS CIGNA HEALTHCARE RX
- MX MEDCO HEALTH SOLUTIONS
- MZ COVENTRY ADVANTRARX
- N3 MEMBERHEALTH
- NC AETNA MEDICARE
- NS UNITED HEALTHCARE
- NZ PACIFICARE LIFE & HEALTH
- P8 UNICARE
- PM WELLCARE
- C2 ANTHEM/WELLPOINT

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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	31				

FHSC and States offices closed

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

The State of Alaska offices and First Health Services Corporation will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2006 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

National Provider Identifier

The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) collects identifying information on health care providers and assigns each a unique National Provider Identifier (NPI). If you need an NPI, you can apply online by going to <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.instructions>. The estimated time to complete the NPI application form is approximately 20 minutes. If you would like a paper application, please call 1-800-465-3203.

Health care providers are required by law to apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI). For the latest NPI information, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2

WEEKEND PA

FHSC's Prior Authorization Unit has a representative available to assist you with your after-hours emergency travel needs. The hours for weekend assistance are:

Saturday 8-5PM

Sunday 12-4PM

REBILLING A CLAIM

When a claim is being rebilled, it is not necessary to mail the claim to the attention of a specific person. This may cause a delay in the processing of the claim and could possibly cause a missed cycle, or timely filing (depending on how close to timely filing the specific claim is being submitted).

IN QUEUE TIME

Please listen carefully to FHSC's Prior Authorization and Provider Inquiry Unit telephone message. The system has recently been updated. Information has been provided that will assist you in expediting your call.

SMALL RECEIPTS

FHSC is not able to image receipts that are small. Please copy small receipts onto a 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper before mailing in for better imaging. This process will assist FHSC in processing your claims in a more timely manner.

ADVANTAGES OF EDI TRANSACTIONS:

1. Reduced claims processing time.
2. Reduced pending or denied claims.
3. Reduced data entry error.
4. Increased cash flow to the provider

Provider Training

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 should bring their provider billing manual(s).

Because of limited space, you are encouraged to register early; registration for each class will close one week prior to the date of the class. Only registered attendees (with a confirmed registration) are guaranteed a seat; those without a confirmed registration may be turned away. If registration requests exceed the available seats, additional sessions may be offered.

Register for classes in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online registration form on the First Health Services Website at <http://alaska.fhsc.com>
- Complete the registration form in the Alaska Medical Assistance Training Schedule and fax to First Health Services at 907-644-9845 or mail to P.O. Box 240808, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0808

After your registration is received and processed by First Health Services, you will receive a confirmation for the classes in which you are enrolled.

January Schedule

01/11/06

Intro to Alaska Medical Assistance	8:30 am – 11:30 am
Eligibility	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Completing Claim Form: UB-92	1:30 pm – 2:15 pm
Completing Claim Form: CMS-1500	2:30 pm – 3:15 pm
Medicare Crossovers	3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

01/12/06

Remittance Advices	8:30 am – 10:00 am
RTDs	10:15 am – 11:45 am
Appeals	1:00 pm – 1:45 pm
Prior Authorizations (PAs)	2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Transportation & Accommodation	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

01/18/06

Adjustments & Voids	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
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01/19/06

Dental	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
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01/20/06

Teleconference: Adjustments/Voids	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
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01/25/06

Third Party Liability (TPL) Avoidance	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
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01/27/06

Teleconference: TPL Avoidance	10:00 am – 11:00 pm
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Northwestern and Delta Airlines are reducing Anchorage service beginning January 2006. Advance planning will help to minimize delays and rescheduled appointments for recipients needing to travel out of state for medical care.

ENTER CURRENT ICD-9 DIAGNOSIS CODE(S) ON CLAIMS

Effective for past and current dates of service, claims received on or after January 11, 2006 must include a current ICD-9 diagnosis code(s). Payment will be denied for a claim received on or after January 11, 2006 that has a missing or incorrect diagnosis code. If you have any questions, please contact FHSC's provider inquiry unit at 907-644-6800 or 1-800-770-5650 (in-state, toll-free).

Training Email and Fax Number

Medicaid's training email 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 (907-644-9845) 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 email, as this is not a securely protected environment.

2006 National Procedure Codes/Modifiers

Effective January 1, 2006, Alaska Medical Assistance will not accept deleted 2005 procedure codes and modifiers for services delivered in 2006. In prior years, Alaska Medical Assistance allowed a 90 day grace period permitting coverage for deleted codes. However, HIPAA requires all covered entities (providers and health plans) to report/accept only valid code sets. Procedure codes and modifiers must be valid at the time service is rendered to be considered for payment.

If you have any questions, please contact FHSC's Provider Inquiry Unit at 907-644-6800 or 1-800-770-5650 (in-state, toll-free)

Regulation Changes

Durable Medical Equipment

REGULATION CHANGES FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, RESPIRATORY THERAPY ASSESSMENT VISITS, PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS, AND HOME INFUSION THERAPY TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY 11, 2006

Please note that regulation changes take effect on January 11, 2006 and may be obtained at: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/publicnotice/regulations.cfm> Also, the Certificate of Medical Necessity Form is posted on FHSC's website at <http://alaska.fhsc.com/>; choose **Providers**, then choose **Updates**. A new provider billing manual will be published in January 2006.

A new provider billing manual will be published in January 2006. In addition, if you are enrolled as both a provider of durable medical equipment (MSXXXX provider billing number) and prosthetics and orthotics (POXXXX provider billing number), please remember to end your secondary enrollment with an effective date of 1/11/06.

If you have any questions, please contact FHSC's Provider Inquiry Unit at 907-644-6800 or 1-800-770-5650 (in-state, toll-free).

Hearing Services

REGULATION CHANGES FOR HEARING SERVICES AND ITEMS TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY 11, 2006

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