

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

4501 Business Park Blvd
Suite 24 Bldg L
Anchorage, AK 99503-7167
Telephone: (907) 334-2400
FAX (907) 561-1684

GENERAL INFORMATION RELEASE

May 23, 2006

OPEN LETTER TO: Physician Prescribers

From: Dave Campana R.Ph. Medicaid Pharmacy Program Manager

Subject: (1) **New products and services covered**
(2) **Brand Medically Necessary**

(1) **New Products and Services Covered:**

Effective May 18, 2006, Tobacco Cessation services are covered by Alaska Medicaid for those who use tobacco and want to quit. Services for tobacco cessation are covered effective for dates of service on 5-18-06.

Specific covered products and services:

Medications include Bupropion SR, Nortriptyline which do not require prior-authorization.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) may be used for tobacco cessation treatment when prior-authorized. The NRT may be obtained for one ninety day session when the patient receives tobacco cessation counseling from a physician. During the first year the nicotine replacement therapy may be prior-authorized for an additional ninety day session if the patient continues to try to be abstinent. Specific NRT items that are covered are patches, gum, lozenges, or nasal spray. The patient must receive clinical intervention or counseling to receive the NRT. The patient must fail on the nicotine patches in order to try the nicotine gum, lozenges or nasal spray. The prior-authorization for tobacco cessation is obtained from the First Health MAP desk by calling 1-800-331-4475 or using the attached Generic Prior-authorization form.

Clinical Interventions or counseling may be used to assist the patient to quit and provide relapse prevention treatment. These clinical interventions are to be provided according to the Clinical Practice Guidelines published by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, June 2000 and documented in the patient's chart. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/tobaqrg.htm#Front>

The clinical intervention services may be billed under either of the following codes if provided by the physician:

The Tobacco Cessation clinical intervention service codes are listed below Please note that Evaluation and Management and Tobacco Cessation clinical intervention codes represent overlapping services and are considered mutually exclusive. When using the codes below the Department requests the provider to use no more than ten visits per ninety day Tobacco Cessation session.

Code	Description	Physician Payment	Code	Description	Physician Payment
G0375	Smoking & tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes	\$ 18.75	G0376	Smoking & tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes.	\$ 36.57

The physician may also refer the patient to the free Alaska Quit Line at 1-888-842-7848. The Quit Line provides free NRT patches and counseling.

(2) Brand Name Medications

When the physician wants a Brand Name multi-source drug, the physician only needs to indicate on the prescription the drug is medically necessary or the patient is allergic to an ingredient in the generic. The Medicaid program no longer requires the reason for medical necessity. This notification may be submitted to the pharmacy by fax, telephone or other electronic means. 7 AAC 43.590 (b)(7) This policy is consistent with the Preferred Drug List policy.

Please call me if there are any questions about these new policies at 907-334-2425.

Sincerely,

Dave Campana, R.Ph.
Pharmacy Program Manager

cc: Cindy Christensen, R.N., Manager, Professional Services
Dwayne Peeples, Director, Division of Health Care Services
Jerry Fuller, Medicaid Director