

ATCA Medicaid Work Group Report for April FY11 meeting

Work group: Medicaid and 3rd Party Payer

Chair and contact information: Andrea Thomas

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Main work group members: Kathy Allely, Margene Andrus, Bill Bouwens, Alana Branson, Joy Britt, Laura Coleman, Karen Doster, Elmer Howarth, Molly Korpula, Lynda Koski, Alison Kulas Sanya Krenzlok, , Cindy Lincoln, Gail Stoltz,

Summary of activities since last meeting:

Projects this period include working with Health Care Cost Management Corporation of Alaska (HCCMCA), a state coalition whose members are self-insured organizations. This group represents 60,000 insured employees in Alaska. We met with the HCCMCA facilitator and found that they would like information about the Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line (ATQL) and participation in their seven Alaska Health Fairs (in Anchorage [2], Fairbanks [2], Soldatna, Mat-Su valley and Juneau. ATQL information was distributed at their March 25th quarterly meeting. The members were appreciative of the information and some will try to promote the ATQL. They were also in support of representatives at the health fairs in the fall of 2011. We are currently formulating a proposal for HCCMCA to consider covering tobacco cessation in their health insurance plans. A gold standard tobacco cessation coverage document is currently being worked on to include: coverage; the scope of the tobacco problem; how a health plan can address tobacco use; how to engage plan participants into a tobacco cessation program; the cost of the coverage; and the return on investment for tobacco cessation.

This group is also working on creating informational flyers to Medicaid recipients, providers and pharmacists on the new changes that are pending (no prior authorization needed for nicotine replacement therapy, no requirement to fail on nicotine patches prior to trying other over the counter products like gum or lozenges). The goal of this group is to reduce barriers to Medicaid coverage, and increase the number of insurance companies that cover tobacco cessation in the State of Alaska.

We are tracking the progress of HB 209 that was introduced on 3/25/11 by Rep. Herron and Kerttula. This bill would require state regulated insurance plans (23% of the Alaska population) of tobacco cessation.

Gail Stoltz, from the State of Alaska is now helping out with activities in this ATCA team.

Lyda Koski is working on finding out the following information:

- Billing for tobacco cessation services with the VA
- Reimbursement for Pharmacist D providers for Medicare
- Talk to Providence Hospital in Fairbanks about filling for tobacco cessation services out of the respiratory department

Summary of activities or discussions anticipated for the next 4 months:

- Prepare a gold standard document for the HCCMCA meeting in June
- Complete template flyers on to promote the new Medicaid changes once they have been finalized and made public.

- Look into publishing the Tobacco Medicaid utilization data in an EPI bulletin.
- Review the table developed from the Multi-State Collaborative on effective approaches including: insurance coverage, health plan education, state employee insurance coverage, large employee focused outreach and education to leverage purchasing health plans that include tobacco cessation, targeted collaboration, Quit line tie with insurance, and Medicaid changes.