

ATCA Medicaid Work Group Report for May 7-8th meeting

Work group: Medicaid and 3rd Party Payer

Chair and contact information: Andrea Thomas

222 Tongass Dr., Sitka, Alaska 99825

907-966-8883 or 907-738-2443

andrea.thomas@searhc.org

Main work group members: Kathy Allely, Bill Bouwens, Christine Brubaker, Karlene Borja, Carrie Enoch, Renee Gayhart, Chris Grangaard, Jessica Harvill, Erin Peterson, and Marilyn Thomson and Lynda Koski. In addition, 13 other people receive the information.

Summary of activities since last meeting:

Medicaid:

The team heard back from Dave Campano about the recommendations forwarded by the Drug Utilization Committee. The following are the recommendations accepted:

- Allowing coverage of other nicotine replacement therapies prior to patch failure.
- Discontinuing prior authorization for nicotine patches.

In addition they discontinued prior authorization for all nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) except nicotine spray. They are going to add in quantity limits for the NRT.

So far, they have decided not to:

- Allowing coverage of combination nicotine replacement therapies.
- Adding a first line pharmacotherapy (inhaler)

A group is currently meeting to prepare a cost benefit/cost utilization information for Kathy Allely, and other division leaders, to meet with top Medicaid officials. We hope to move other Medicaid recommendations forward on a administrative and how to best prepare backup documentation (i.e. cost utilization information

Two other recommendations the group is working on:

- Point of visit (mutual exclusivity/un-bundling)- change the regulation that only allows tobacco cessation reimbursement for patients seen only for tobacco, to patients that are seen for other issues and tobacco.
- Change provider types to allow tobacco treatment specialists to be a Medicaid reimbursable provider type.

Insurance:

The insurance team met and decided to plan on individual interviews with the top state insurers (Premera, Etna, Great West and Oregon Dental to see what their top selling policies cover for tobacco cessation. We decided against a combined survey and will stick with the basic question “What is your coverage of tobacco cessation for your top selling fully insured small group clients and your large plan clients?” We will then have a list of prompts for a variety of coverage issues.

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

- Continue to work with Medicaid personnel to work toward changes on tobacco cessation coverage.
- Find Contact lead person for Etna, Great West, Premera and Oregon Dental