

ATCA Medicaid Work Group Report for November 2008 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, David Campana, Carrie Enoch, Renee Gayhart, Debra Golden, Chris Grangaard, Erin Peterson, and Marilyn Thomson and Lynda Koski. In addition, 13 other people receive the information.

Summary of activities since last meeting:

Committee members presented to the Medicaid Drug Utilization Committee on September 26th with Andrea Fenaughty being the main presenter. The presentation covered:

- Impact of tobacco use in Alaska (169 million spent in smoking related medical cost of which 77 million is incurred by Medicaid)
- ATCA information
- Workgroup goals
- Review of evidence to change current Medicaid rules (2008 USPHS Guidelines and morbidity and Mortality Weekly report for 2/1/08, and Medicaid Utilization)
- Medicaid benefit utilization (FY 07 \$94,129.29 of which only \$84.67 was paid counseling claims {41} the rest was prescription claims{969})
- The case for allowing combination therapy
- The case for covering all first line pharmacotherapies

As a follow-up, Andrea Fenaughty sent Alex Malter, DUR Committee member, the whole set of recommendations from the ATCA Medicaid/3rd party payer group. This included:

- Allowing coverage of combination nicotine replacement therapies.
- Adding a first line pharmacotherapy (inhaler)
- Allowing coverage of other nicotine replacement therapies prior to patch failure.
- Discontinuing prior authorization for nicotine patches.
- Point of visit- 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.

The group is also collected information on a state toolkit to employers and a state wide survey tool to assess tobacco cessation insurance coverage.

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.
- Explore the possibility of a state wide employer survey and toolkit for tobacco cessation coverage