

ATCA Medicaid Work Group Report for September 25 & 26th meeting

Work group: Medicaid and 3rd Party Payer

Chair and contact information: Andrea Thomas

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Main work group members: Kathy Allely, Bill Bouwens, Christine Brubaker, Karlene Borja, David Campana, Carrie Enoch, Renee Gayhart, Debra Golden, Chris Grangaard, Kate Herring, Stacy Kelley, Erin Peterson, and Marilyn Thomson. In addition, 13 other people receive the information.

Summary of activities since last meeting:

The work group developed a detailed document, using the newest clinical guidelines, to present to a team at State Medicaid that described this team's Medicaid short term and intermediate goals. After the meeting, the following changes potentially could be changed:

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

In addition we want to continue to move toward adding a provider type for tobacco cessation counseling and review the point of visit barrier.

A presentation is being planned with the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Committee in September on these issues.

The group is also looking at third party payer coverage of tobacco cessation both in terms of best practices and how to strategically provide this information to employers. The goal is to increase the number of employer coverage plans in Alaska for tobacco cessation.

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.
- Create material addressing the best coverage for tobacco cessation and send the information to the Benefit Officers of top Alaskan employers.