

ATCA Medicaid Work Group Report for September 09 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, Scotty Barr, Bill Bouwens, Christine Brubaker, Karlene Borja, Carrie Enoch, Renee Gayhart, Michael Handricks, Jessica Harvill, Elmer Howarth, Lynda Koski, Sanya Krenzlok, , Alan Moma, Marilyn Thomson and Laurie Wiese. In addition, 8 other people receive the information.

Summary of activities since last meeting:

For the past year the ATCA Medicaid and Third Party Payer Workgroup has been working to develop and promote a set of suggested changes to the current Alaska Medicaid benefit for tobacco cessation counseling and medications.

We are still waiting to hear when the changes to the tobacco cessation benefit approved by the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) committee will go into effect. We are currently exploring and planning how to best get the word out among grantee communities. Upcoming changes:

- 1) Prior authorization requirements will be removed for all covered cessation pharmacotherapies except for nasal spray. However to retain some control, new “to be determined” maximum quantity limits will be implemented for NRT and Chantix.
- 2) The “fail first” on patches requirement will be eliminated so clients can try any of the covered NRT options first.

We are currently gathering current utilization of the tobacco Medicaid reimbursement data and plan to meet with State contacts to best determine the next strategy to pursue for further Medicaid changes.

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

- Promote the Medicaid changes in healthcare centers throughout Alaska when they are made public.
- Get Medicaid utilization data and set up a meeting to discuss possible new strategies.
- Look at the success of other states in the Multi-State Collaborative and learn about the steps they took for changes in: 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.