



Improving Health, Protecting Alaskans Annual Report 2009



Alaska Department of Health & Social Services • Sean Parnell, Governor • Bill Hogan, Commissioner

Health Care Services

William Streur,
Director

The Division of Health Care Services provides fiscal agent oversight and payment of almost 6 million medical claims annually to 12,000 enrolled health-care and support providers who care for the most medically and financially vulnerable Alaskans. The division ensures functionality of the current Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), while managing the ongoing MMIS replacement efforts. Additionally, it provides regulatory oversight and direct support to hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, therapists, clinics, and numerous other health care providers. The division maintains and leads efforts in rate review and rate setting, health planning and systems development, certificate of need and health facility survey.

Accomplishments

The division implemented emergency regulations expanding lifesaving heart and lung transplant coverage to adults, previously available only to those under age 21; increased reimbursement for dental services as part of ongoing efforts to encourage enrollment of new dental providers; and successfully transitioned the state Medicaid fiscal agent services to a new contractor, Dallas-based Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) Inc., which is also currently developing Alaska Medicaid's new MMIS.

The division reduced by more than 12 percent the average number of days required to adjudicate claims; recovered \$75 million from third-party insurance companies and other responsible payers; and adjudicated and paid 5.8 million medical claims totaling almost \$1.1 billion for services provided to more than 127,000 eligible children, pregnant women, families, disabled individuals and seniors.

Goals

The division remains committed to the timely and appropriate access to health-care services for eligible recipients. Some current and upcoming endeavors include the review, analysis and potential regulatory revision of payment methodologies and rates for dialysis/end stage renal disease services, durable medical equipment, pharmacy dispensing fees, emergency transportation rates, tribal dental providers, and other vital health-care services.

The division will continue efforts to replace the current MMIS, which processes more than 112,600 claims (\$20.7 million) weekly, while maintaining accurate and timely payment of claims by the current system; and will continue efforts related to the 2012 and 2013 compliance deadlines for HIPAA 5010 and ICD-10 code set, respectively.



Visit http://www.hss.state.ak.us/publications/DHSS_AnnualReport.pdf to read the entire Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009.