

In This Issue

- *What's Happening*
- *2023 Collaborative Conference*
- *PHE (Public Health Emergency)*
- *H0015 Intensive Outpatient Services: The New Way of Doing Old Business*
- *Service Authorization Preparedness*
- *Rate Updates*
- *Provider Trainings*
- *Optum Participant Newsletter*

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Helpful links

[Optum Alaska Website](#)

[Optum - Provider Express Home](#)

[Live and Work Well: Member Home](#)

[Division of Behavioral Health \(alaska.gov\)](#)

2023 Collaborative Conference

Mark your calendars. . .Optum Alaska's 2023 Collaborative Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 4th and Thursday, October 5th.

More information to come.

Questions or would like to share topics and ideas. Please contact Provider Relations at akmedicaid@optum.com

What's Happening

Optum is excited to deliver this newsletter to assist our providers with keeping up with the information involving Behavioral Health services, claims, trainings, and provider updates.

The provider relations team is here to help with all questions and deliver information to you. Provider Relations can be reached at akmedicaid@optum.com

PHE (Public Health Emergency)

The federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration was renewed for 90 days effective February 11, 2023, and expiring May 11, 2023.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra has notified states that the Public Health Emergency will not be extended beyond 5/11/2023.

Service Authorizations:

Services provided between July 1, 2022, and May 11, 2023 (SFY2023) will not be counted toward state fiscal year limit caps. No service authorizations will be required for services provided between those dates.

Important dates:

- Service authorizations will be required beginning May 12, 2023.
- State Fiscal Year limits will be reset May 12, 2023.
- State Fiscal Year limits will reset July 1, 2023 (in the new fiscal year).

[COVID-19: Renewal of Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists \(hhs.gov\)](#)

H0015 Intensive Outpatient Services: The New Way of Doing Old Business

Prior to the implementation of the 1115 Waiver, participants needing the higher level of care offered through Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP) often had their treatment addressed through a variety of medically necessary outpatient services including the use of H2015 Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS). While these important skill-building, counseling, and relapse prevention offerings helped people in individual and group settings achieve a frequency of engagement needed for their well-being, no true IOP program existed under the State Plan.

Enter the Waiver and exit Comprehensive Community Support Services.

In both the 1115 Behavioral Health and 1115 Substance Use Disorder Standards and Administrative Procedures manuals, H0015 (and its modifiers) is now a billable code for Intensive Outpatient Services. Designed for participants experiencing significant functional impairments interfering with their ability to participate in one or more life domains, IOP allows providers to bill one service for people needing 9-19 hours of treatment per week. This not only mitigates the need to bill several service codes, but also ensures people are enrolled in the right levels of care. And while H2021 Community Recovery Support Services (CRSS) mirrors many of the interventions that existed under CCSS, providers do not need to replicate the same dependence on CRSS to get participants the frequency and level of care needed.

As you think about your treatment programs and intentions you may have to expand into IOP, look at how many different services within your outpatient program you are offering to the same person each week and consider whether you have the capacity to shift to IOP.

Service Authorization Preparedness.

In February, Optum launched Pre-Launch Service Authorization Testing. Optum worked with Providers to test the end-to-end service authorization process. Twenty-six (26) Providers were involved submitting a SA online and via fax. Optum conducted several individual provider trainings weekly through to March 03, 2023. Testing allowed Optum to reduce potential system corrections and allowed providers hands on practice. The PHE (Public Health Emergency) is coming to an end May 12, 2023. Optum appreciates the participation, feedback, and conversations to better prepare for our Go Live of Service Authorizations.

Procedure / Modifier Grids Are Available

Entering procedure modifiers in the correct sequence is necessary for accurate claim payment. Entering procedure code modifiers in any other order may result in claims denials, underpayments and/or overpayments.

The current Procedure / Modifier grids are located on the [Optum Alaska](#) website, under Provider Billing Resources:

- [1115 Waiver Services](#)
- [Autism Services](#)
- [State Plan Services](#)

Rate Updates

Tribal Outpatient per Visit Rate 2023

On 02.27.2023, Indian Health Services, part of the Public Health Service, released the 2023 inpatient and outpatient services rate for services provided on or after January 1, 2023.

[Federal Register: Reimbursement Rates for Calendar Year 2023](#)

Questions? Please contact Provider Relations at akmedicaid@optum.com

1115 Waiver Services Rates

Effective 03.26.2023, the State of Alaska, Department of Health released new rates for 1115 Waiver Services.

[Click Here](#) to view the public notice and 1115 Waiver Services Rates.

Questions? Please contact Provider Relations at akmedicaid@optum.com

Optum Participant Newsletter

The 6th issue of the Alaska Medicaid Newsletter for Participants was published April 2023. This issue of the Alaska Medicaid Newsletter offers an article of facts regarding Substance Use Disorder (SUD), which includes signs of alcoholism and alcohol withdrawal syndrome along with another article that includes a “how to know if you have a SUD” checklist.

This Newsletter also includes a Peer Support Corner and links to AA/NA and other meetings in your area. We encourage Providers to share this with participants as appropriate. It is a great resource. The newsletter is available on the Optum Alaska Portal under Participant Quick Links. Participant Newsletter (optum.com)



*Alaska Division of Behavioral Health and Optum
Working together for Alaska*

Provider Trainings

Optum Alaska is pleased to work with our Alaska Medicaid providers to provide training opportunities throughout the year. Technical Assistance Teleconferences are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Upcoming TAT's:

- April 12, 2023: Service Authorization Town Hall. [Click Here](#) to register.
- April 25, 2023: Service Authorization Town Hall. [Click Here](#) to register.
- April 26, 2023: Technical Assistance Teleconference, Service Authorization Get Ready. [Click Here](#) to register.

Did you miss a Technical Assistance Teleconference? You can find past Teleconferences [here](#) on the Optum Alaska website.

Be sure to sign up for email alerts to stay in touch with events and happenings by [clicking here](#) to be sure that you and your agency are up to date with the latest Optum Alaska news.