



Optum Alaska
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Alaska Medicaid Provider Update

Division of Behavioral Health Disaster Declaration flexibilities set to end November 1, 2021

July 30, 2021

Notice of phase out of flexibility in regards to 7 AAC 70.110 (b)(1)(3-4) and 7 AAC 135.010(d)(3) surrounding the Alaska State Public Health Disaster Declaration. These flexibilities will end November 1, 2021.

During the disaster declaration, DHSS suspended certain regulations to help providers continue serving recipients during a period of reduced access to travel. For the Division of Behavioral Health, the suspended regulations included Withdrawal Management Services and Telephone Consultation/Coordination.

Withdrawal Management Services: to allow for increased access to care during the pandemic, DHSS suspended the on-site requirements for community behavioral health service providers in regards to withdrawal management services (7 AAC 70.110 (b)(1)(3-4)).

The suspension of these regulations will cease on November 1, 2021 and actions related to them will become enforceable. Beginning November 1, 2021, all services provided on or after November 1, 2021 will be required to comply with on-site requirements for community behavioral health service providers in regards to withdrawal management services (7 AAC 70.110 (b)(1)(3-4)).

Telephone Consultation/Coordination: to allow for continuity of care when transportation was reduced or unavailable due to the pandemic, DHSS suspended 7 AAC 135.010(d)(3), allowing phone consultations or telephonic coordination with another service provider.

The suspension of these regulations will cease on November 1, 2021 and actions related to them will become enforceable. Beginning November 1, 2021, the department will not pay for telephone consultation or coordination with another service provider other than case management as a Medicaid covered for any and all services provided on or after November 1, 2021.

Please contact mpassunit@alaska.gov with questions.