

ALABAMA MEDICAID

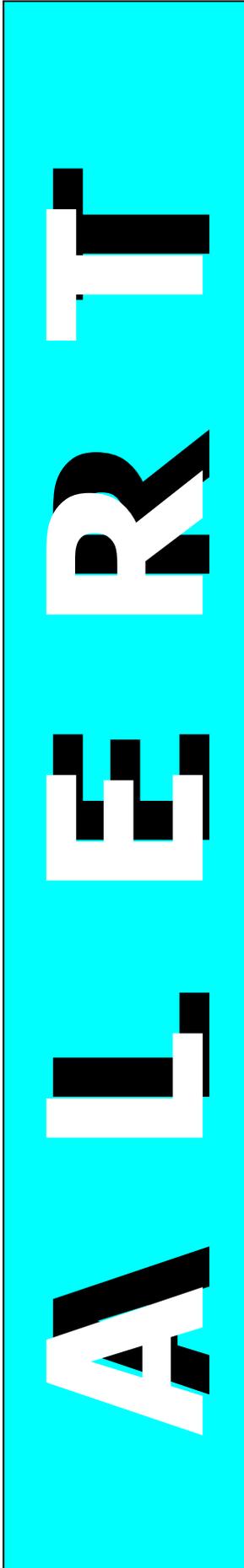
October 2010 Provider Manual

Provider Alerts



Click on Bookmarks to the left to view Provider Alerts

RETURN TO MAIN MENU



To: All Providers and Vendors

RE: System Maintenance on Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Total System Outage:

This maintenance action is being taken to continue improvements in system resources availability for the operation of the Alabama Medicaid System. There will be no claims and eligibility processing or system access by any method during the system maintenance period tonight.

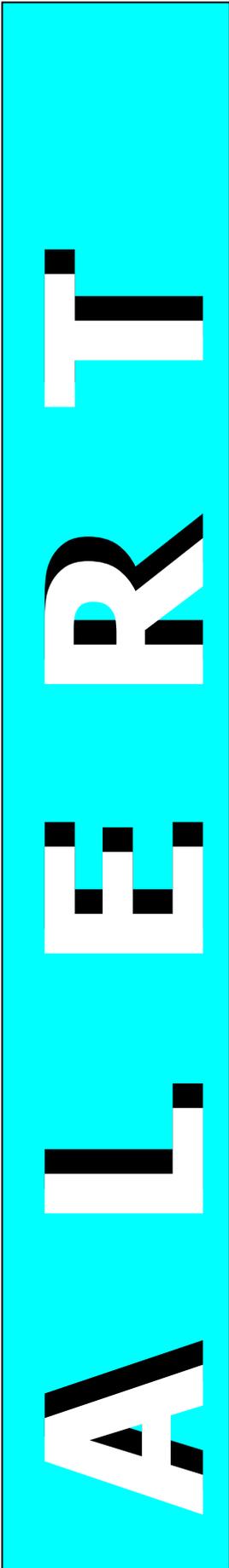
When:

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 beginning at 10:00 PM Central

To

Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 2:00 AM Central

October 1, 2008



To: All Hospital Providers

RE: Notice To Hospitals Filing Inpatient Claims

All **hospitals** should hold all inpatient claims with dates of service beginning October 1, 2008, until new per diem rates are implemented.

The Agency will host a meeting to discuss new payment rates at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 7 in the Agency's Boardroom.

For those unable to attend the meeting in person, a web conference option will be available through ilinc.

To access this option, you will need to do two things:

- 1) **Join the conference, and**
- 2) **Call 1-800-915-8704 - Meeting number *1273929***

To join the conference, click on the following link:

<https://alabamamedicaid1.ilinc.com/join/rskzcr/fypzhjy>

The link will be active beginning at 1:10 pm CT. (Please do not forward to others)

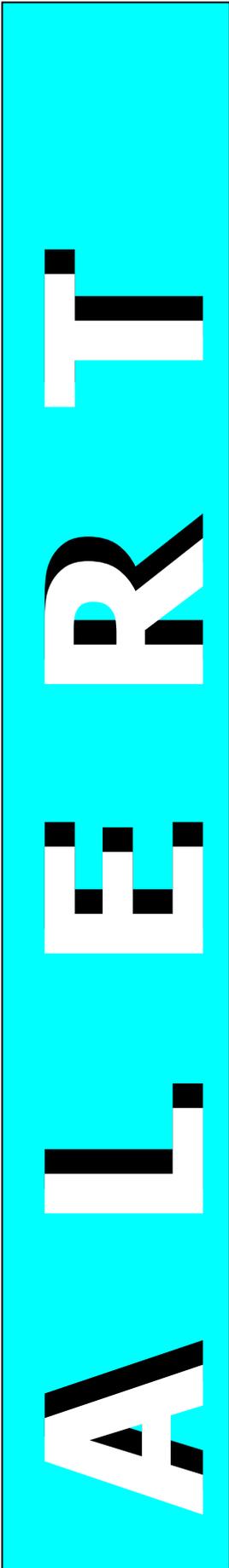
Please prepare your computer ahead of time by clicking the following link:

<https://alabamamedicaid1.ilinc.com/systest/rskzcr>

If you need assistance to prepare your computer, please contact your IT department.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please call Medicaid at 334-353-4121 for assistance.

October 01, 2008



To: All Providers

RE: Change in Provider Payroll Date

Alabama Medicaid will change the date for the release of provider payrolls effective with the October 17, 2008 checkwrite.

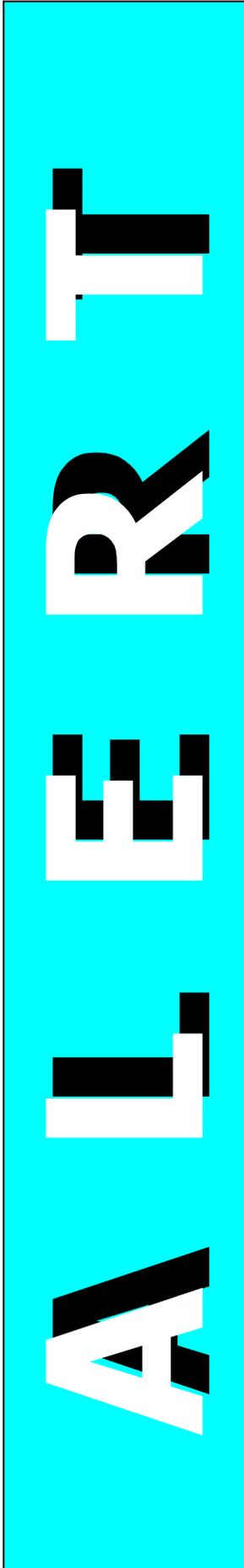
This change means that funds previously released on Wednesdays after the checkwrite date will not be released until the Friday following the checkwrite date.

Example:

October 17, 2008	Checkwrite date (Cutoff date)
October 24, 2008	Funds released at midnight

As always, the release of funds (direct deposits and checks) depends on the availability of funds.

October 03, 2008



To: All Providers

RE: Database Maintenance

Web Portal Reports Temporarily Unavailable:

This maintenance action is to perform database maintenance. The only impact to providers will be the inability to retrieve Remittance Advice and Managed Care reports via the Web Portal. All other Web Portal, claims processing, and eligibility functions will not be impacted.

When:

Friday, October 24, 2008 at 9PM to Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 9PM

and

Friday, October 31, 2008 at 9PM to Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 9PM

All reports will be available at the conclusion of each maintenance period.

Oct 20, 2008

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To: All Providers

RE: Batch Response Files (BRF) <Audit Trails> Are Now Available for Download

EDS and the Medicaid Agency are pleased to announce the return of the Claim Status Request (CSR or audit trail), now known as a Batch Response File (BRF). The BRF is similar to the old CSR, but has been revised to meet the standards of the Medicaid claims processing system.

The BRF will allow providers to determine claims status prior to receiving the Remittance Advice.

How Will I Download the BRF?

If you use a software vendor, contact your software vendor for instructions. Vendors were notified of the upcoming changes and companion guide in an earlier Alert. Your software vendor will need to format the file information from a flat file format into a readable format. The companion guide is available through the following link:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/mpi_companion_guides.aspx?tab=6

What Version of Provider Electronic Solutions Will Allow BRF Downloads?

Providers wanting to obtain the BRF through Provider Electronic Solutions will need to download and apply version 2.10. Upgrades are available through the following link:

<http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/pes.aspx?tab=6>

Should you have problems or questions related to Provider Electronic Solutions version 2.10, contact the Electronic Media Claims Helpdesk at 1-800-456-1242 (in-state) or (334)-215-0111 (out-of-state). E-mail alabamasystemsemc@eds.com.

How Will I Download the BRF once I apply Version 2.10?

- Open Provider Electronic Solutions
- Click on Communications
- Click on Submission
- Under files to receive select BRF-Batch Response File
- Click Submit
- After file has downloaded, close out of submission
- Go to Communication
- Click on View Batch Response

Field Names and Descriptions

The BRF will show which claims paid, denied or suspended. The following information will display:

Field Name	Field Description
Trading Partner ID	The assigned 9 digit trading partner number used by the submitter to send a batch of claims.
File Tracking ID	The tracking number assigned to a batch of claims when uploaded to AMMIS.
Internal Control Number (ICN)	The internal control number that uniquely identifies a claim in the system.
Claim Status	The status of the claim after processing through the system. Values can be either "P" (paid), "S" (suspended), or "D" (denied).
Total Detail Count	The total number of details associated to the claim.
Provider NPI ID	The National Provider ID used to process the claim.
Provider Medicaid ID	The Medicaid Provider ID used to process the claim. Identifies the service location.
Recipient ID	The Recipient or Subscriber ID submitted on the claim.
Recipient Check Digit	The Recipient or Subscriber check digit submitted on the claim.
Patient Account Number	The Patient Account Number submitted on the claim.
Medical Record Number	The Medical Record Number submitted on the claim.
First Date of Service	The date of the first date of service on the claim in CCYYMMDD format.
Billed Amount	The Billed Amount submitted on the claim.
Paid Amount	The paid amount that was calculated by the system for a paid claim. This field will be the end of the record for Paid claims.
Error Count	The number of errors set on the claim.
Detail Number	The detail number on which the error was set. 0 = header; 1 > = detail number.
Error Code Status	Status code that represents the disposition of the specific error that has set on the claim. Values are deny (D) or suspend(S).
Error Code	The Explanation Of Benefit (EOB) code set on the claim.
Error Message	The text message that describes the error that was set on the claim.

Common Questions and Answers Regarding the BRF

Can I view all claims submitted through the BRF?

No. Claims which automatically crossover from Medicare to Medicaid may not be viewed through the BRF and claims which are submitted through the web portal may not be downloaded through the BRF. (Users may perform a search in the web portal to check claim status for these claim types). Additionally, some state agencies that submit through a direct connect process will not be able to view BRF files. If you have questions on how to search for claims submitted through the crossover process or the web portal, contact your Provider Representative at 1-800-688-7989.

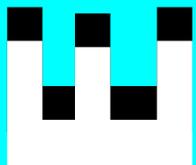
What Claim Types Will Generate a BRF?

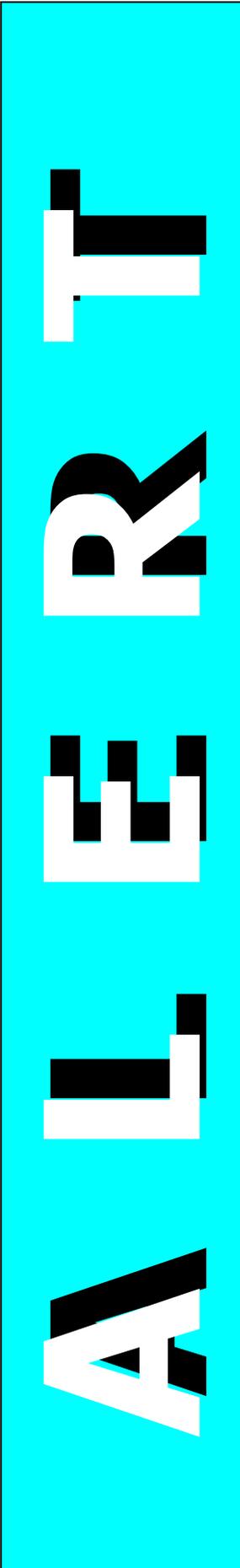
837 P (Professional)

837 I (Institutional)

837 D (Dental)

The BRF will only be returned to the Trading Partner that uploads a batch of claims. Trading Partners can be providers or vendors. If you use a trading partner ID to submit your claims to a clearinghouse, which then submits the batch to EDS for processing, your vendor will have to provide you with a BRF.





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To: All Infectious Disease Specialists and HIV Clinics

RE: Trofile Assay

The Trofile Assay will be a covered service by Medicaid with prior authorization effective December 1, 2008. The procedure code to be billed is 87999 (unlisted microbiology procedure). In order to be reimbursed by Medicaid for the Trofile Assay, the ordering provider must submit a Prior Authorization electronically or by paper on form 342. The form is available on the Agency's website at:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/Billing/5-F_Forms.Billing/5F-2_Prior.Auth.Forms/5F-2a_PA_Form342_fillable-2-26-08.pdf

Providers requesting a PA should include:

- Any past history of antiretroviral medications prescribed to include date prescribed and the date the drug was discontinued;
- The name and contact information of the HIV clinic that the provider is affiliated with if the requesting provider is not enrolled in Medicaid with specialty of infectious disease, and;
- The result of the most current HIV-1 RNA.

If you need further information, please see chapter 4 of the Provider Billing Manual for detailed instructions on the submission of prior authorizations. Providers with questions may contact Teresa Thomas, Program Manager, Lab/X-ray services at teresa.thomas@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at (334) 242-5048.

December 02, 2008

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**To: ASC, Dialysis, Home Health, Hospice,
Hospital, Nursing Home, Radiology, and RHC
Providers**

RE: The Change of Ownership Form

Beginning January 1, 2009, currently enrolled providers must complete the new ***Change of Ownership Information form*** to report change of ownership information ***prior*** to making such change. This information will be used in determining how the change in ownership will be processed.

Paragraph 1.2.2 of the Provider Agreement in the Alabama Medicaid Provider Enrollment Application states "Provider agrees to keep its application for participation in the Medicaid program current by informing MEDICAID or its agent in writing of any changes to the information contained in its application, including, but not limited to, changes in ownership or control, federal tax identification number, or provider business addresses, at least thirty (30) business days prior to making such changes." Chapter 7 of the Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual will also be updated. The Change of Ownership Information form is available on the agency website at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/forms_provider_enrollment.aspx

January 05, 2009

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To: Dental Providers

RE: Dental Prior Authorization Process

To better serve dental providers and their patients, EDS will now receive and prepare dental prior authorization (PA) requests for Medicaid Agency review effective January 1, 2009.

To request a dental PA, providers should submit the Alabama Prior Review and Authorization Dental Request Form 343, dental x-rays, periodontal charts, and medical necessity notes to EDS. The information will be scanned and prepared by EDS staff members, then forwarded to the Alabama Medicaid Agency for review and disposition.

All correspondence related to prior authorizations should be sent to EDS at the following addresses:

EDS
ATTN: Dental Prior Authorization Department
PO Box 244032
Montgomery, AL 36124

Physical address for **express delivery only**:

EDS
ATTN: Dental Prior Authorization Department
301 TechnaCenter Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

For emergency prior authorizations, please contact the Alabama Medicaid Dental Program directly at: (334) 242-5472 or via e-mail at: dental@medicaid.alabama.gov

Please refer to Chapter 13 of the Medicaid Provider Manual for the emergency prior authorization process. The manual is available online at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/index_billing.aspx?tab=6

January 13, 2009

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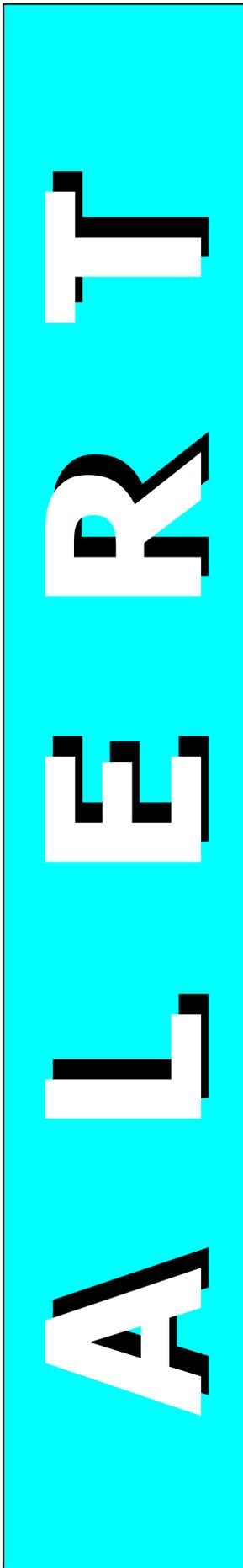
To: Radiology Clinics, Physicians, Oral Surgeons, Nurse Practitioners, Dentists, Public Health, Hospitals, ASC, FQHC, RHC, CRS, and EPSDT Providers

RE: Effective Date of Radiology Prior Authorization Program

The effective date of the Radiology Prior Authorization Program has been changed from February 2, 2009 to March 2, 2009. Medicaid will allow a grace period from March 2nd through March 31st. Providers will be required to submit prior authorizations during this grace period. Medicaid will not deny any claims for these services performed from March 2nd through March 31st due to no prior authorization. However, beginning on April 1, 2009, any claims that are submitted for these radiological services for dates of service April 1, 2009 and thereafter without prior approval will be denied. The Medicaid Contractor for this program, MedSolutions, will be sending further information soon.

Providers with questions may contact Teresa Thomas, Program Manager, Lab/X-ray services at teresa.thomas@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at (334) 242-5048.

January 16, 2009



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To: Instate and Bordering Hospital Providers

RE: Enrollment of Psychiatric and Rehabilitation Subparts Within a Hospital for Crossover Claims

Hospitals with psychiatric and rehabilitation subparts are now required to enroll with a separate NPI (National Provider Identifier) in order to process crossover claims.

To enroll, an application for each subpart must be submitted to EDS's Provider Enrollment Department. This step is necessary to register the separate NPIs in the Medicaid system.

To request an enrollment application, you may contact EDS' Provider Enrollment Department at 1-888-223-3630 or visit Alabama Medicaid's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov (Billing/Forms – Billing-Related/Provider Enrollment Forms/Hospital Subpart Enrollment Application) to download a copy of the Provider Enrollment Application for Providers in Alabama and bordering states.

This enrollment policy for psychiatric and rehabilitation subparts only applies to Medicare/Medicaid crossover claims. It does not apply for straight Medicaid claims.

For questions concerning this policy change, you may contact the Alabama Medicaid Agency, System Support Unit at (334)242-5627.

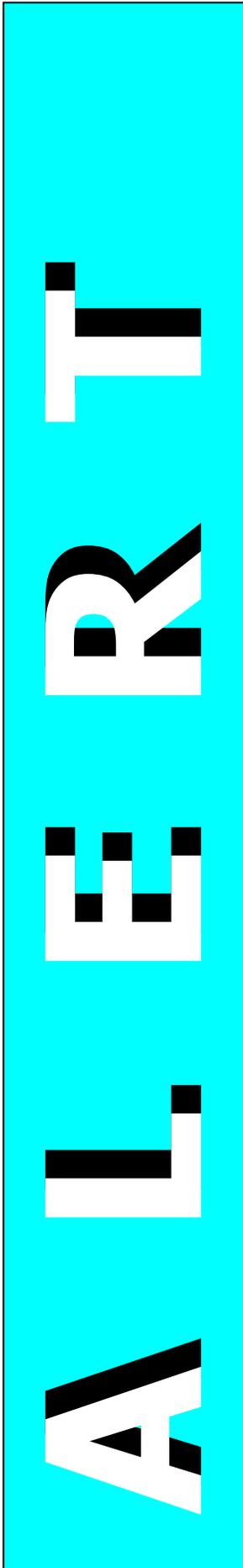
For unpaid crossover claims that are now beyond the one-year filing limitation, you will have until July 1, 2009 to request an administrative review. In your request, indicate these claims are for the psychiatric or rehab subparts and enclose the paper claim form.

Mail to:

System Support/Administrative Review Unit
Alabama Medicaid Agency
P.O. Box 5624
Montgomery, AL 36103-5624

The time filing limitation will be overridden for those claims received on or before July 1, 2009.

March 6, 2009



To: All Providers

RE: New Medical & Quality Review Services Contractor

Effective April 1, 2009, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) will perform medical and quality reviews for the Alabama Medicaid Agency. AQAF will perform prior authorizations for durable medical equipment, private duty nursing and certain medical services; long-term care reviews, including hospice pre-certification and concurrent reviews; and retrospective review of institutional admissions.

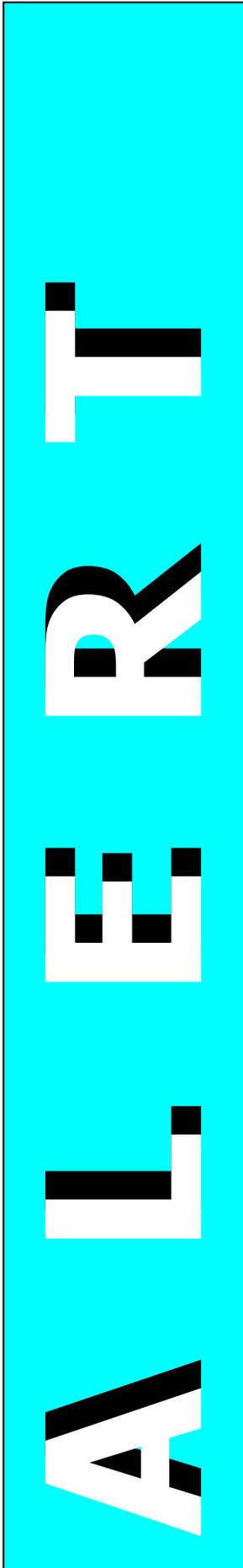
- **The current contractor (APS Healthcare), will stop accepting PA and other requests on March 27, 2009.**
- **Documents requiring immediate attention between 03/27/09 and 03/31/09 should be mailed or faxed to the Alabama Medicaid Agency at the following address or number:**

LTC Medical & Quality Review Unit

**Alabama Medicaid Agency
501 Dexter Avenue, Suite 3014
P.O. Box 5624
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624
Fax: (334) 353-4909**

Prior Authorization (PA) Requests

- **Effective April 1, 2009, AQAF will process all PAs except those related to:**
 - Pharmacy,
 - Dental Services,
 - Radiology Services, and
 - Augmentative Communication Devices.
- **The process for submitting PA requests will remain the same.**
 - Attachments required as part of the PA review process must be sent to EDS for scanning into the system. This allows the EDS system to link the request by PA number as well as generate a response to the provider.
 - Linking hard copy attachments with a PA request submitted electronically will delay the PA process. To expedite the attachment process, submit within 48 hours of the submission of the PA request.
- If you have questions regarding the status of a PA request that is less than 30 days from submission call the Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) Line at (800) 727-7848.
- If you need assistance with a PA that is greater than 30 days from the date of submission, contact the Provider Assistance Center at (800) 688-7989. If you are unable to resolve your problems after contacting the AVRS Line or Provider Assistance Center, you may contact AQAF at 1-205-970-1600, extension 3314.



- **Expediting turnaround time for DME Conditional Approvals**
 - To expedite the turnaround time for converting conditional approvals to an approved status, please fax delivery tickets and invoices to **APS Healthcare** at (770) 991-5429 by **03/27/09**.
 - Effective April 1, 2009, please mail or fax to **AQAF** at the following address:

**Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation
Two Perimeter Park South, Suite 200 West
Birmingham, Alabama 35243-2337
Fax: (205) 970-1614**

- Chapter 15: Submitting Prior Authorization Requests, in the Provider Electronic Solutions Manual provides additional information regarding the PA process.

Reviews for Institutional, Hospice, Post Extended Care Hospital (PEC), and Swing Bed providers

- **Effective April 1, 2009**, AQAF will assume responsibility for reviewing applications for admissions for the programs listed below:
 - Hospice
 - PEC
 - Swing Beds
 - Retrospective review process for appropriateness of admissions to Nursing Homes, ICF/MR facilities and IMD facilities
- **Faxed attachments will not be accepted by AQAF with the exception of inpatient psychiatric facilities.**
- Applications for admission to Hospice, PEC, and Swing bed programs **more than 30 pages** must be mailed to AQAF to the address above.
- AQAF will request monthly retrospective reviews for Nursing Homes, ICF/MR facilities, and IMD facilities. Medical record documentation, in response to such requests, which contains **more than 30 pages**, must be mailed to AQAF to the address indicated above.
- Medical record documentation which contains **less than 30 pages**, Hospice Recipient Status Change Forms (**Form 165B**) and Long Term Care Request for Action Forms (**Form 161A**) may be faxed to AQAF at the number below:

Fax: (205) 970-1614

Providers with questions may contact Theresa Carlos, Associate Director of Medicaid's LTC Medical & Quality Review Unit, at theresa.carlos@medicaid.alabama.gov or 334-353-3711.

March 04, 2009

**To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants,
Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists,
Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, and Nursing Homes**

RE: Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Two important pharmacy program updates will be effective April 1, 2009:

1) The Alabama Medicaid Agency will no longer require prior authorization (PA) for payment of generic legend omeprazole. Preferred brands as well as OTC versions of Proton Pump Inhibitors will also continue to be available with no PA necessary.

2) The Alabama Medicaid Agency will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Aciphex -Gastrointestinal Agents- Proton-pump Inhibitors	Caduet -Cardiovascular Health/ HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors/Combos
Patanase -EENT Preparations-Antiallergic Agents	Imitrex -Pain Management/ Autonomic Agents-Selective Serotonin Agonists
Treximet -Pain Management/ Autonomic Agents-Selective Serotonin Agonists	Metadate CD -Behavioral Health/ Cerebral Stimulants-Agents for ADD/ADHD
	Pexeva - Behavioral Health/ Antidepressants
	[†] Relenza -Anti-infective Agents/ Neuraminidase Inhibitors
	[†] Tamiflu -Anti-infective Agents/ Neuraminidase Inhibitors

** denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

[†]Will remain preferred throughout the defined flu season (October 1 – April 30).

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers are to mail or fax hard copy PA requests directly to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

March 10, 2009

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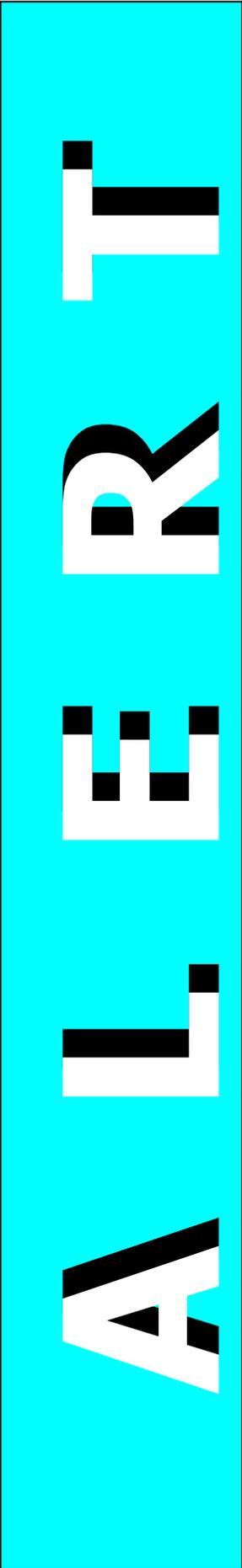
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Fax: (205) 970-1614

Providers with questions may contact Theresa Carlos, Associate Director of Medicaid's LTC Medical & Quality Review Unit, at theresa.carlos@medicaid.alabama.gov or 334-353-3711.

To: Psychologists

RE: Minimum Qualifications for Professional Staff Working Under Supervision of Medicaid-enrolled Psychologists

Effective April 1, 2009, the only individuals recognized for reimbursement under the direct supervision of a Medicaid-enrolled psychologist are:

- A professional counselor licensed under Alabama law (i.e. LPC, ALC)
- A marriage and family therapist licensed under Alabama law
- A certified social worker licensed under Alabama law
- A licensed psychological technician
- An individual possessing a master's degree or above from a university or college with an accredited program for the respective degree in psychology, social work, counseling, behavioral specialist or other areas that require equivalent clinical course work and who meets at least one of the following qualifications:
 - Has successfully completed a practicum as a part of the requirements for the degree
 - Has six months of post master's level clinical experience supervised by a master's level or above clinician with two years of post graduate clinical experience.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to Karen Green @ (334) 353-4945 or karen.green@medicaid.alabama.gov.

March 11, 2009

To: All Pharmacy Providers

RE: DAW 2-Audits

If your pharmacy has received a letter concerning Dispense as Written (DAW) 2 audit findings, the pharmacy should disregard the letter and its enclosure. The Alabama Medicaid Agency will not make any corresponding adjustments to the next provider payment based on these findings.

Although an "Appropriate Utilization of DAW Codes" article has been circulated to pharmacies through educational newsletters, as well as listed on the Agency website (www.medicaid.alabama.gov, click on Programs/Pharmacy/Billing Resources), claims continue to be submitted utilizing inappropriate product selection codes. Please note the Agency will be updating its written policy in the April 1, 2009 provider billing manual to enforce appropriate utilization of product selection codes as defined by NCPDP standard. The use of the DAW codes will be audited on a regular basis to ensure correct billing. **As such, pharmacy claims submitted after April 1, 2009 with inappropriate product selection/DAW codes will be recouped.**

March 16, 2009

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TO: Psychologists

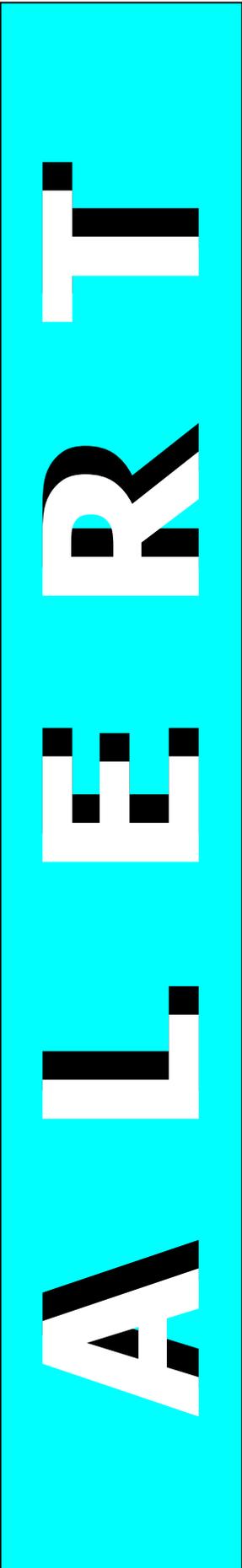
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- A marriage and family therapist licensed under Alabama law
- A certified social worker licensed under Alabama law
- A licensed psychological technician
- An individual possessing a master's degree or above from a university or college with an accredited program for the respective degree in psychology, social work, counseling, behavioral specialist or other areas that require equivalent clinical course work and who meets at least one of the following qualifications:
 - Has successfully completed a practicum as a part of the requirements for the degree
 - Has six months of post master's level clinical experience supervised by a master's level or above clinician with two years of post graduate clinical experience.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to Karen Green @ (334) 353-4945 or karen.green@medicaid.alabama.gov.

March 20, 2009



To: All Pharmacy Providers

RE: Correct prescribing physician license number or NPI required on all pharmacy claims

Pharmacies participating in the Alabama Medicaid program are required to use the prescribing physician's NPI or license number when filing a claim with the Agency. A recent review of pharmacy billing practices found that numerous pharmacies are using an incorrect prescribing physician number on claims submitted to the Agency.

Providers are reminded that any pharmacy claim with an incorrect prescribing physician number is subject to recoupment. Pharmacies with repeated violations will be subject to revocation of their Medicaid provider agreement, and referral to federal or state law enforcement personnel for criminal prosecution.

April 28, 2009

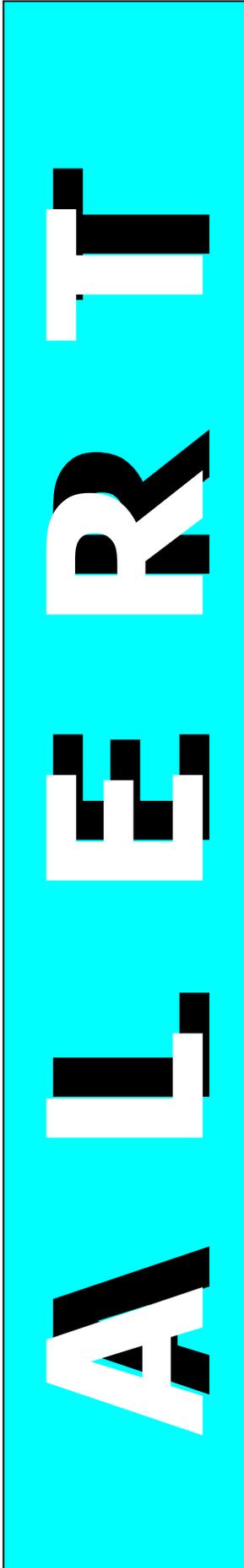
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To: All Providers

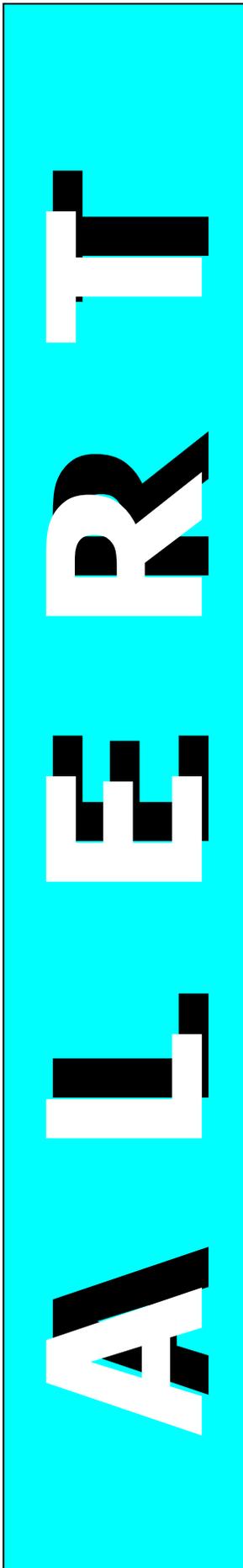
RE: Alabama MMIS Maintenance Window

The Alabama Medicaid claims processing system will undergo maintenance between Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 11:30 PM till Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 4 AM Central Daylight Saving Time.

The impact of this outage will be:

1. Providers will be able to submit batch transactions to the web portal. However, the response files will be delayed until the conclusion of the maintenance and the process of the submitted files can be completed.
2. Eligibility information will **not** be available by any means (interactive, AVRS, or web portal)
3. Interactive pharmacy claims processing will **not** be available.
4. MMIS user panels will **not** be responsive to queries.

May 29, 2009



To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Nursing Homes, and Mental Health Providers

RE: Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Effective July 1, 2009 the Alabama Medicaid Agency will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Astelin - EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents	Metrogel Vaginal - Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents/Antibacterials
Astepro - EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents	
Elidel - Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents/Miscellaneous	
Levemir - Diabetic Agents/Insulins	
Luvox CR - Behavioral Health/Antidepressants	
Pramox - Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents/Antipruritics	

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers are to mail or fax hard copy PA requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

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To: Radiology Clinics, Physicians, Hospitals, FQHC, RHC, CRS, and EPSDT Providers

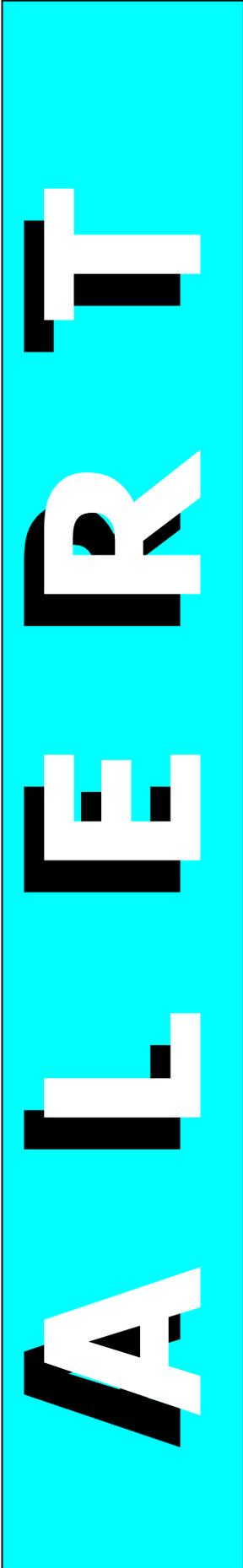
RE: Changing Procedure Codes on Radiology Prior Authorizations for CT scans, MR scans and PET scans

Effective June 22, 2009, providers will be allowed 30 days from the date of service to:

- change a code from “without contrast,” to a code in the same family “with contrast” or “with and without contrast” or
- change a code from “with contrast” or “with and without contrast,” to a code in the same family “without contrast” or
- add a study to radiology procedures when the Prior Authorization has already been obtained.

The ordering provider (physician’s office) or the performing provider (facility) must call Medsolutions at 1-888-693-3211 to request that a code be changed. For changing a code to a higher code (from without contrast, to with contrast, or to with and without contrast), or adding a study, Medsolutions will continue to review criteria for medical necessity before approval.

Providers with questions may contact Teresa Thomas, Program Manager, Lab/X-ray services at teresa.thomas@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at (334) 242-5048.



To: Dental Providers

RE: Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA)

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), Public Law 111-3, reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) under title XXI of the Social Security Act. CHIPRA includes many provisions aimed at improving coverage for children. Section 501 (e) of CHIPRA requires that States work with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Health Resources Services Administration **to develop a current and accurate list of all dentists and providers within each state that provide dental services to children and includes the elements as below.** This information will be posted on the Insure Kids Now website at www.insurekidsnow.gov. Please note that this is a federal requirement.

Please assist us by completing the information below by July 8, 2009 and faxing to 334-353-5027.

1. Provider Name: _____
2. Provider Affiliation: Private Practice ____ Community Health Center ____
Health Department ____ Other ____
3. Provider Specialty: General Dentist ____ Pediatric Dentist ____ Oral Surgeon ____
Orthodontist ____ Endodontist ____ Periodontist ____
4. Accepts New Patients: Yes ____ No ____
5. Can Accommodate Special Needs: Yes ____ No ____
6. NPI Number or State Medicaid Number* _____
(*This information will not be on the website)
7. Group or Clinic Name: _____
8. Provider Physical Street Address (City, State, and Zip Code Phone and Fax Number):

Street Address

City, State, and Zip Code

Phone Number including area code *FAX number including area code*
9. Optional Information: Website address: _____
Affiliation with Managed Care Plans: _____
Languages Spoken: _____

If you have questions regarding this request please contact Leigh Ann Hixon at 334-353-5263 or via e-mail at LeighAnn.Hixon@medicaid.alabama.gov

If you practice at multiple locations, please complete a form for each location.

June 30, 2009

To: All Providers and Associations

RE: Synagis® Criteria for 2009-2010 Season

The Alabama Medicaid Agency has updated its prior authorization criteria for Synagis®.

Highlights of the updated criteria include:

- The approval time frame for Synagis® will begin October 1, 2009 and will be effective through March 31, 2010.
- Up to five doses will be allowed per recipient in this timeframe. Some recipients may only receive up to a max of 3 doses, depending on the gestational and chronological age.
- There are no circumstances that will result in approval of a sixth dose.
- If a dose was administered in an inpatient setting, the date the dose was administered must be included on the request form.
- For approval of requests, the recipient must meet gestational and chronological age requirements. In order to meet chronological age requirements, the recipient must not exceed the specified age at the start of the RSV season.
- Prescribers, not the pharmacy, manufacturer or any other third party entity, are to submit requests for Synagis® on a separate prior authorization form (Form 351) **directly** to Health Information Designs and completed forms may be accepted beginning September 1, 2009 (for an October 1 effective date).
- A copy of the hospital discharge summary from birth is required on all Synagis® PA requests.
- If approved, each subsequent monthly dose will require submission of the recipient's current weight and last injection date and may be faxed to HID by the prescribing physician or dispensing pharmacy utilizing the original PA approval letter.
- Letters will be faxed to both the prescriber and the dispensing pharmacy notating approval or denial.

Criteria

Alabama Medicaid follows the 2009 updated American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines regarding Synagis® utilization. The form and complete updated criteria specific to Synagis® are available on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov under Programs: Pharmacy Services: Prior Authorization/Overrides Criteria and Pharmacy Forms: 2009-2010 Synagis® Criteria and Forms.

Educational Presentation / Web Conference

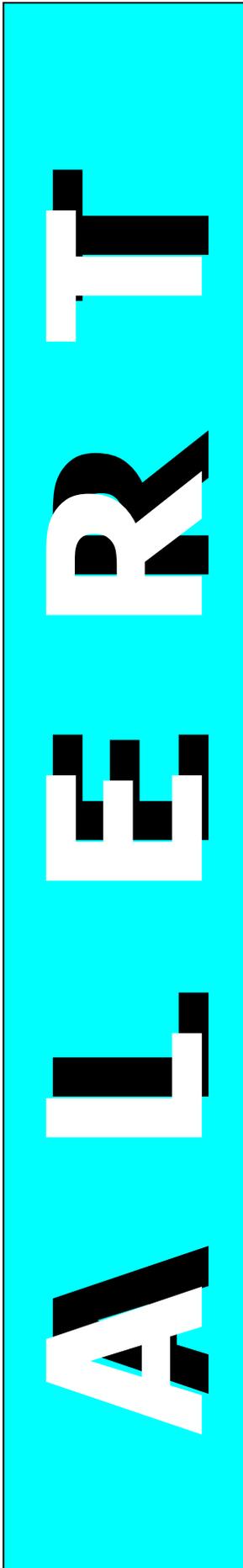
To inform providers about changes impacting the 2009-2010 Synagis® season, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will present a statewide Web conference on August 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for all Synagis® providers. A question and answer session will be held at the end of the presentation so providers may ask questions or obtain clarification as needed.

Providers may participate in the Synagis® web conference via physical attendance in the Medicaid Boardroom or join via an *iLinc* web conferencing feature. In order to join via *iLinc*, participants must register by August 10, 2009.

Providers may register by emailing their name, phone number and email address to Earnestine.Rhodes@medicaid.alabama.gov or by calling (334) 242-5050 and providing their name, phone number and email address during normal business hours. Participants registering via email should include SYNAGIS ILINC in the subject line of the email when responding. Participants should register early as space for the web conference is limited.

Additional questions regarding Synagis® criteria can be directed to the Agency's Prior Authorization contractor, Health Information Designs at 1-800-748-0130.

July 15, 2009



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To: Physicians

RE: Radiology Management Program “Gold Card Changes”

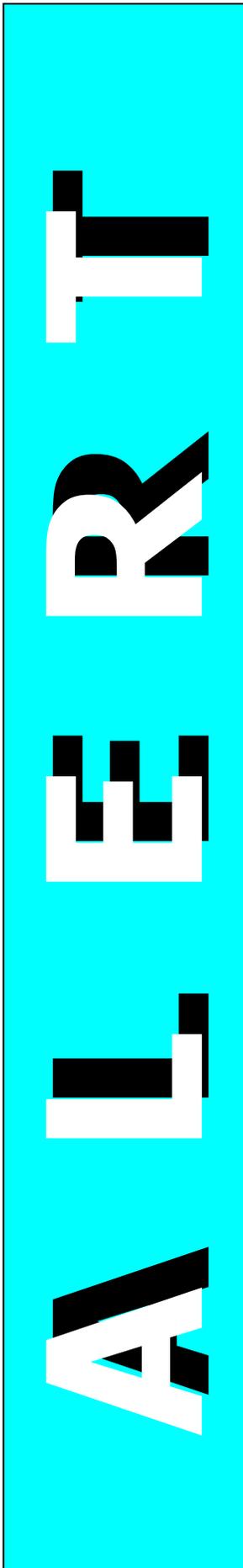
Effective October 1, 2009, changes will be made to “Gold Card” status based on Agency evaluation of prior authorization requests made between April 1 and June 30 of 2009. The following changes will be made:

- Providers who currently have “Gold Card” status, and have requested six or fewer radiology tests during the April-June quarter will continue to have “Gold Card” status.
- Providers who have requested seven or more tests during April-June quarter and would have had a denial rate of 5% or less will continue to have “Gold Card” status.
- All other providers with current “Gold Card” status will be removed from the “Gold Card” program.

The status of all providers will be re-evaluated after one year. Redetermination will be based on the preceding 12 months’ worth of data (October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010). If the data shows that the provider has seven or more tests ordered per quarter and a 5% or less denial rate, then “Gold Card” status will be granted. Also, those providers with a gold card during those 12 months who order more than seven tests per quarter and have a denial rate above 5% will have their gold card status removed. Providers with a “Gold Card” who continue to order 6 or fewer tests per quarter will continue to have “Gold Card” status.

Providers with questions may contact Teresa Thomas, Program Manager, Lab/X-ray services at teresa.thomas@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at (334) 242-5048.

September 11, 2009



To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Nursing Homes, and Mental Health Providers

RE: Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Effective October 1, 2009, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Azor -Cardiovascular Health/ Calcium Channel Blockers/Combos	Augmentin XR -Anti-infective Agents/ Penicillins
OTC pyrantel pamoate (ex. Pin-X, Reese) Anti-infective Agents/Anthelmintics	Exelon -Behavioral Health/Alzheimer's Agents
Prandin -Diabetic Agents/Meglitinides	Paxil CR -Behavioral Health/Antidepressants
	Starlix -Diabetic Agents/Meglitinides
	Valtrex -Anti-infective Agents/ Nucleosides and Nucleotides

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

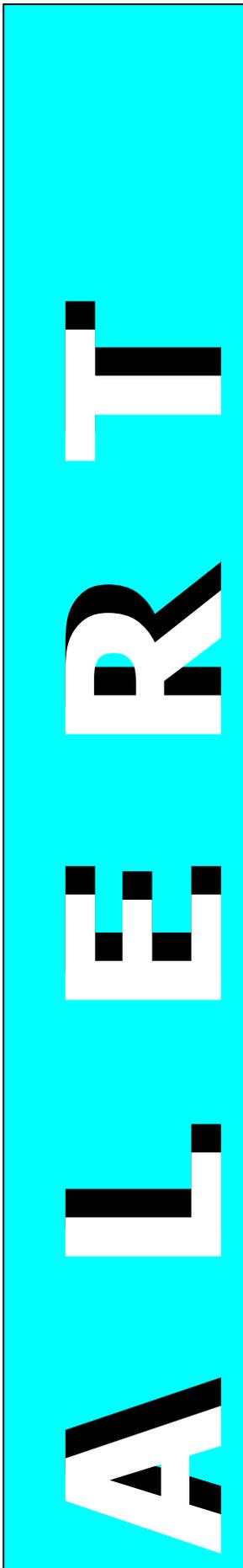
The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers are to mail or fax hard copy PA requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

September 11, 2009



To: All In-State Hospital Providers and Maternity Care Primary Contractors

RE: Maternity Inpatient Hospital Claims

Beginning with delivery dates of October 1, 2009, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will process all maternity inpatient hospital claims as fee-for-service claims and will make payment directly to the hospital provider. Deliveries prior to October 1, 2009, are the responsibility of the Maternity Care Primary Contractor.

Examples of how claims will be processed when filed to Medicaid are described below:

If the Delivery occurs BEFORE October 1, 2009:

Example: Inpatient claim Dates of Service: 09/20/09 – 10/03/09; Delivery date 09/30/09

Inpatient Hospital Providers:

- The inpatient hospital provider's claim will be the responsibility of the Maternity Care Primary Contractor because the delivery occurred prior to October 1, 2009.

Maternity Care Primary Contractors:

- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will bill for the date of delivery (09/30/09) and will receive the full global payment amount since the delivery occurred BEFORE October 1, 2009.
- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will be responsible for the inpatient hospital claim since the delivery occurred in September.

If the Delivery occurs on or after October 1, 2009:

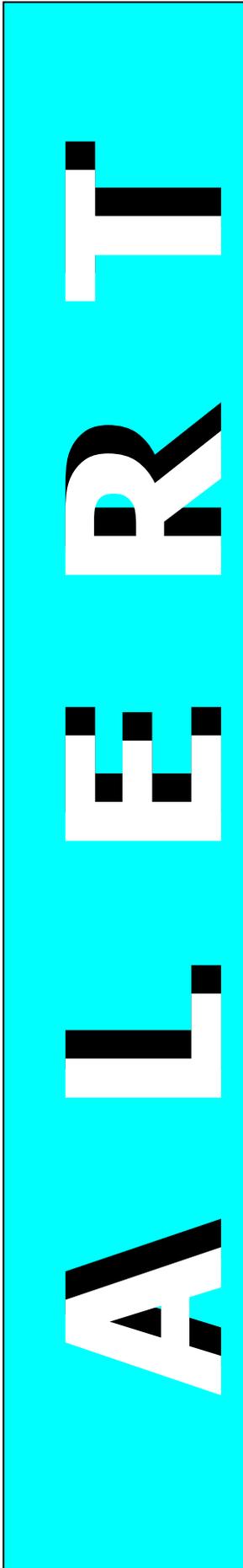
Example: Inpatient claim Dates of Service: 09/20/09 – 10/03/09; Delivery date 10/01/09

Inpatient Hospital Providers:

- The inpatient hospital provider will bill with September services on one claim and October services on another claim.
- In order for the hospital to be reimbursed for services provided in September that were medically necessary, the hospital must send a paper claim to the Alabama Medicaid Agency for an override. It is not necessary for the hospital to receive a denial or bill this claim prior to sending an override request to the Agency. If a hospital provider bills a claim for September services, it will be processed through the Medicaid claims processing system automatically as a Maternity care claim and deny. The inpatient hospital provider's claim for October services will be paid fee-for-service through the Medicaid claims processing system. (see override procedure below)

Maternity Care Primary Contractors:

- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will bill for the date of delivery (10/01/09) and will receive the reduced global payment amount since the delivery occurred on or after October 1, 2009.
- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will not be responsible for the September inpatient hospital services since the delivery occurred in October and their global payment amount was reduced.



OVERRIDE PROCEDURE:

The hospital must send a letter requesting an override because the delivery occurred on or after 10/1/09. The letter must include the actual date of the delivery. A completed paper (red-drop out ink) UB-04 claim form must be enclosed with the letter.

Send the written letter and claim to:

Alabama Medicaid Agency
ATTENTION: INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES
PO Box 5624
Montgomery AL 36103-5624

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To: All Providers

**RE: Additional Information for Prior Authorization (PA)
Reconsiderations ***

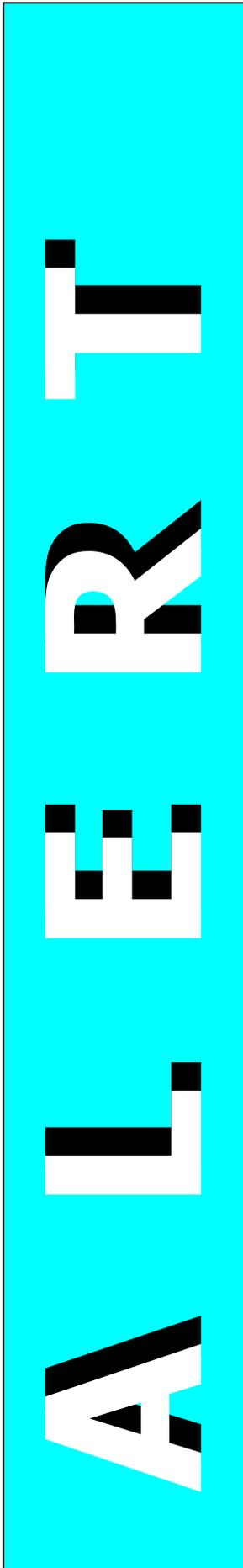
Effective immediately, the Agency's Medical & Quality Review Services Contractor, AQAF (Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation) will implement a page on their website where providers can enter a PA number to inform AQAF that additional information for a reconsideration has been submitted. As before, this information should be submitted to the fiscal agent, HP (formerly EDS), to scan into the system. Please see the instructions below.

- Type in the URL for the AQAF website:
- <http://www.aqaf.com/recon>
- Enter the PA number and press the submit button to alert AQAF that additional information has been submitted to HP (formerly EDS) for reconsideration.

This information goes into a database for AQAF staff to access.

*AQAF does NOT review PAs for pharmacy, radiology, CTs, MRIs, Dental, or TCM

October 02, 2009



To: All In-State Hospital Providers and Maternity Care Primary Contractors

RE: Maternity Hospital Claims Payment Clarification

Effective for delivery dates of October 1, 2009, and thereafter, inpatient hospital maternity claims are to be sent to the Alabama Medicaid Agency's fiscal agent for processing. The fiscal agent will process inpatient hospital maternity claims as maternity encounter claims. Payment of these claims will be the responsibility of the PHPs. Outpatient hospital ultrasounds that have been historically paid by the Maternity Care Primary Contractor may now be billed to Medicaid's fiscal agent for payment. Examples of how inpatient maternity claims will be processed when filed to Medicaid are described below:

1. **If the Delivery occurs BEFORE October 1, 2009 and the claim DOES NOT span September and October -- OR,**

If the delivery occurs BEFORE October 1, 2009 and the claim DOES span September and October:

For example: Inpatient claim for Dates of Service: 9/20/09 – 9/30/09; Delivery date 9/25/09

Or, Inpatient claim for Dates of Service: 9/20/09 – 10/02/09; Delivery date 9/30/09

Inpatient Hospital Providers:

- The inpatient hospital provider's claim will be the responsibility of the Maternity Care Primary Contractor because the delivery occurred prior to October 1, 2009.

Maternity Care Primary Contractors:

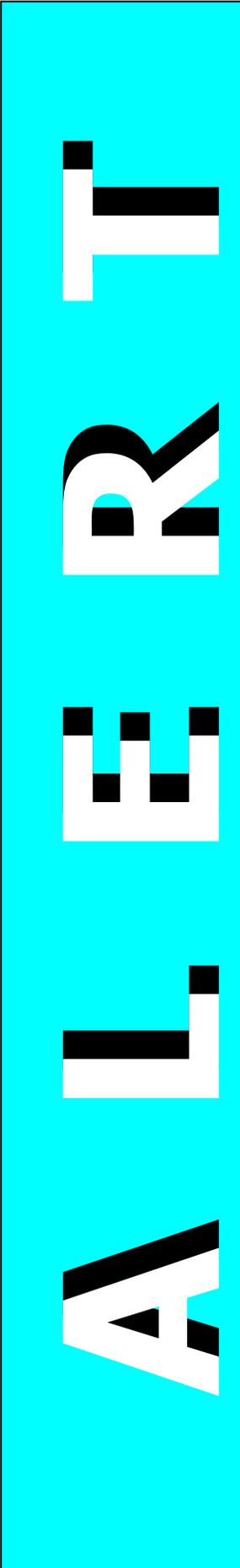
- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will bill Medicaid's fiscal agent for the date of delivery and will receive the full global payment amount since the delivery occurred BEFORE October 1, 2009.
- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will be responsible for the inpatient hospital claim since the delivery occurred BEFORE October 1, 2009.

2. **If the delivery occurs on or after October 1, 2009, and the claim DOES span September and October:**

For example: Inpatient claim for Dates of Service: 09/20/09 – 10/03/09; Delivery date 10/01/09

Inpatient Hospital Providers:

- The inpatient hospital provider's claim will be the responsibility of the PHP because the delivery occurred on or after October 1, 2009.
- Bill all services on one claim to the Medicaid fiscal agent. Do NOT split bill September services on one claim and October services on another claim.



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Maternity Care Primary Contractors:

- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will bill for the date of delivery (10/01/09) and will receive the reduced global payment amount since the delivery occurred on or after October 1, 2009.
- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will NOT be responsible for the September inpatient hospital services since the delivery occurred in October and their global payment amount was reduced.

3. If the Delivery occurs on or after October 1, 2009 and the claim does NOT span September and October :

Inpatient Hospital Providers:

- Bill the claim to the Medicaid fiscal agent.
- The inpatient hospital provider's claim will be the responsibility of the PHPs.

Maternity Care Primary Contractors:

- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will bill Medicaid's fiscal agent for the date of delivery and will receive the reduced global payment amount since the delivery occurred on or after October 1, 2009.
- The Maternity Care Primary Contractor will not be responsible for the inpatient hospital claim since the delivery occurred on or after October 1, 2009.

Note: There is no claim override requirement as described in a previous memo for hospital inpatient maternity care claims.

For questions, please contact Nancy Headley at 334-242-5684 or nancy.headley@medicaid.alabama.gov.

October 13, 2009

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To: Pharmacies

RE: Reimbursement for Administration of Seasonal Influenza and H1N1 Vaccines

Effective November 2, 2009, Alabama Medicaid will begin reimbursing Medicaid-enrolled pharmacy providers for the administration of the influenza and H1N1 vaccines for eligible recipients age 19 and older. Alabama Medicaid will also continue to reimburse pharmacies for the seasonal influenza vaccine but will not reimburse pharmacies for the H1N1 vaccine because the H1N1 vaccine is being supplied by the Alabama Department of Public Health at no charge to the provider.

- Beginning November 2, pharmacy providers may bill the following NDC numbers on a pharmacy claim for reimbursement of vaccine administration:
 - NDC 99999-9999-10 for seasonal influenza vaccine administration
 - NDC 99999-9991-11 for H1N1 vaccine administration
- Reimbursement will be \$5 per administration with no dispensing fee or co-pay applied.
- Claims should be submitted with a dispense quantity of 1 for vaccine administration. There will be a maximum quantity of 1 injection allowed per recipient per year for each vaccine.
- To facilitate coordination of care, Pharmacy providers are instructed to inform (via phone, fax, e-mail, mail) each recipient's Primary Medical Provider (PMP) upon administration of the vaccine(s). Documentation must be kept on file at the pharmacy of the notification to the PMP. If the PMP is unknown, the pharmacy may call the Alabama Medicaid Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) system at 1-800-727-7848 to obtain the PMP information. A suggested Immunization Provider Notification Letter, which can be used to notify the PMP, can be found on the Agency website at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/programs/pharmacy_svcs/pharmacy_services.aspx.
- Alabama State Board of Pharmacy law and regulation should be followed regarding dispensing and administration of legend drugs/vaccines.

October 29, 2009

ATTENTION

To: All Pharmacies, Physicians, Maternity Care Primary Contractors, FQHCs, RHCs, and Health Departments

RE: Recipient Access to Contraceptive Products Under Plan First

Effective November 1, 2009, the Alabama Medicaid Agency is making important changes to improve recipient access to contraceptive products covered under Medicaid's Plan First Program.

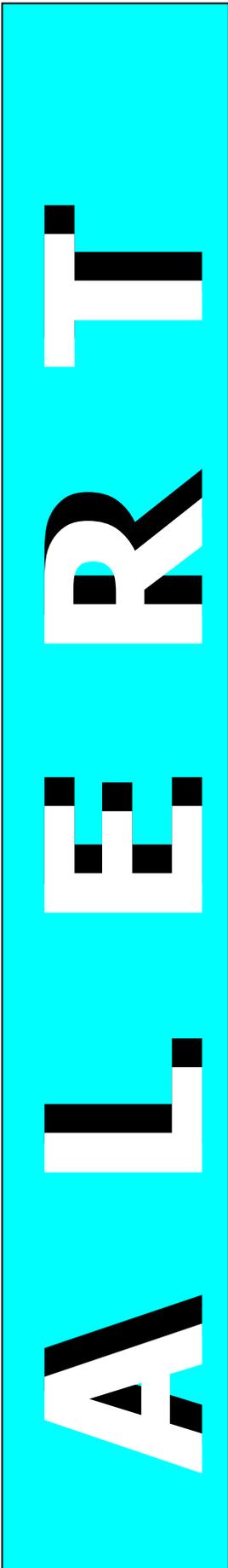
The changes:

1. Women on Plan First will have a new option of obtaining oral contraceptives, the contraceptive ring, or the contraceptive patch at a Medicaid-enrolled community/outpatient pharmacy. This is in addition to the contraceptive products already available at pharmacies, such as injectible contraceptives and diaphragms. In order to fill a prescription at a community/outpatient pharmacy, the Plan First-eligible patient must have received the prescription from a private provider. A 30-day supply is the maximum that may be dispensed at one time.
2. Women on Plan First will continue to have the option of receiving family planning services from the Alabama Department of Public Health or a Federally-qualified Health Center, along with oral contraceptives, the contraceptive ring, or the contraceptive patch. To receive contraceptive products from ADPH or an FQHC, the Plan First-eligible patient must have been seen first by the health department or FQHC. A 12-month supply of contraceptive products may be dispensed at one time.
3. The Plan First Patient Contraceptive Order Form will be discontinued.

Note: There is no change for SOBRA-eligible women who receive a prescription for a contraceptive product when they are discharged from the hospital after giving birth. These women must continue to fill their contraceptive prescriptions at a Medicaid-enrolled pharmacy. After the 60-day post-partum period, these recipients will automatically become Plan First recipients. At that time, they may elect to obtain family planning services from an enrolled Plan First private provider, or directly from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Questions regarding this change should be directed to Leigh Ann Hixon, Plan First Program Manager at leighann.hixon@medicaid.alabama.gov or by calling 334-353-5263.

October 29, 2009



To: All Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Mental Health Service Providers, and Nursing Homes

RE: Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Effective January 4, 2010, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

1. Require prior authorization (PA for payment of the non-preferred brands in the following drug classes:
 - Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT) Preparations: Antibacterials
 - Prenatal Vitamins, and
2. Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Azasite -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	Crestor -Cardiovascular Health/HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors
Bactroban Nasal -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	Simcor -Cardiovascular Health/HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors/Combos
Blephamide -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	
Blephamide S.O.P. -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	
Bleph-10 -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	
Neosporin -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	
Poly-Pred -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	
Tobrex -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	
Vigamox -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers are to mail or fax hard copy PA requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

To: All Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Mental Health Service Providers, and Nursing Homes

RE: Mandatory National Drug Codes (NDC) for ALL Physician-Administered Drugs

In 2008, the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid) began requiring the NDC number for the top 20+ physician-administered multiple source drugs. Reference the July 2008 and April 2009 Provider Insiders.

Effective July 1, 2010, the NDC number will be mandatory on ALL physician-administered drugs in the following ranges: J0000 – J9999, S0000 – S9999, and Q0000 – Q9999. Physician-administered drugs include any covered outpatient drug billed either electronically or on paper CMS-1500 or UB-04 claim forms. The 11-digit NDC submitted must be the actual NDC number on the package or container from which the medicine was administered.

Medicaid will provide a **grace period from March 1, 2010, to June 30, 2010**, to allow providers sufficient time to acclimate to the change. During this grace period, Medicaid will validate the data and will set an informational denial code, but will NOT deny the claim.

This requirement applies to:

- All fee-for-service providers
- HCPCS codes in the ranges J0000 – J9999, S0000 – S9999, and Q0000 – Q9999.
- Both electronic and paper submissions

This requirement does NOT apply to:

- 340-B Providers enrolled on the HHS website
- Providers paid on a per diem, encounter or other type of rate, which includes, but may not be limited to:
 - Inpatient Hospitals
 - Nursing Facilities
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers
 - Rural Health Centers
 - Ambulatory Surgical Centers
 - Home Health Agencies
- Vaccines or other drugs in the CPT code range 01000 – 99999.

As this process is to facilitate Medicaid drug rebates from manufactures for physician-administered drugs, providers are encouraged to utilize drugs manufactured by companies who hold a federal rebate agreement. In the future, these NDCs will be the only ones Medicaid will cover for payment. A list of those drug manufactures who hold a federal rebate agreement, as well as their labeler codes (the first 5 digits of the NDC number), are listed on the Medicaid website at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/programs/pharmacy_svcs/resources_providers.aspx?tab=4. Select the **Click Here** link to access the list of covered labelers (manufacturers) available from CMS.

Providers are encouraged to begin providing the NDC for all physician-administered drugs immediately; however, it is not required until July 1, 2010. Refer to the Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual for billing instructions.

Questions should be directed to the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989 for instate providers or (334) 215-0111 for out-of-state providers.

December 29, 2009

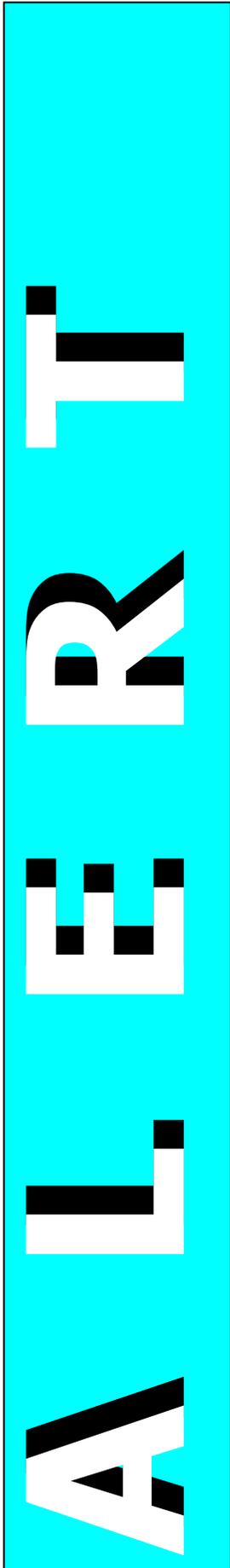
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To: All Renal Dialysis Providers

RE: Renal Dialysis Claims from Medicare

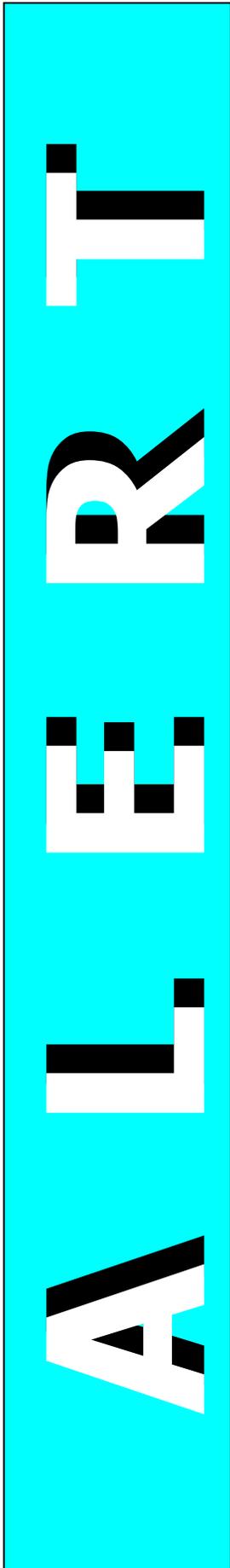
Unresolved issues have required the Alabama Medicaid Agency to stop automatic acceptance of crossover claims from Medicare that began with the December 18, 2009 checkwrite.

This action is effective immediately.

Providers whose claims were processed and paid incorrectly on the December 18, 2009 checkwrite, (and possibly on the January 8, 2010 checkwrite), must take action on those claims, by either adjusting or voiding and resubmitting electronically as done prior to the December 18th checkwrite.

Providers will be notified when the Alabama Medicaid Agency will begin automatically accepting renal dialysis claims from Medicare.

January 04, 2010



To: All Physicians, Pharmacies, and Maternity Care Contactors

RE: Maternity Care Program Changes for Recipients

Two important coverage changes for Alabama Medicaid maternity care patients will be implemented effective February 1, 2010. These programs include coverage of smoking cessation products and coverage of substance use screening (H0049) and a brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for pregnant women (H0050). Details and requirements are listed below.

Coverage of Smoking Cessation Products

Effective February 1, 2010, smoking cessation products for pregnant females will be covered as a component of the Maternity Care Program.

1. Prior authorization through the Pharmacy Administrative Services contractor, Health Information Designs, will be required.
2. The recipient must be enrolled and receiving counseling services through the Alabama Department of Public Health Quitline (1-800-784-8669).
3. Approval will be granted for up to three months at a time. Subsequent approvals are contingent upon the recipient's continued participation in counseling services through the ADPH Quitline which must be certified by the prescribing provider or Maternity Care Coordinator as a component of the prior authorization request.
4. Only one course of therapy will be approved per pregnancy.

Providers with questions regarding prior authorization for smoking cessation products may contact Health Information Designs at 1-800-748-0130.

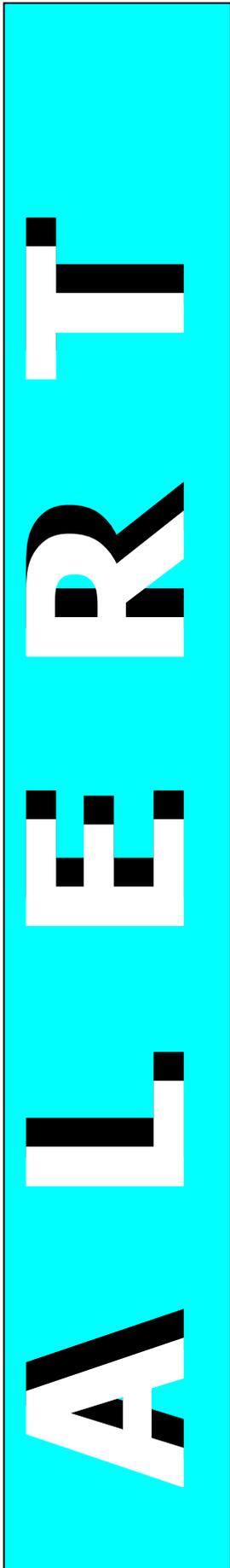
Coverage of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment

Effective February 1, 2010, Alabama Medicaid Agency will begin coverage of procedure codes H0049 screening for substance use and H0050 Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for pregnant women in conjunction with antepartum care provided by physicians, physician employed nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician-employed physician assistants, and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

1. Prior to offering the service, Health care professionals must successfully complete an online tutorial which can be accessed at <http://www.mh.alabama.gov/SATR/AlabamaSBIRT/Default.aspx>.

The tutorial has been developed by Alabama Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Service Division to prepare health care professionals to screen and refer Medicaid recipients for treatment for alcohol, tobacco, and substance abuse.

2. The Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Division will notify the Alabama Medicaid Agency Maternity Care Program of health care professionals' successful completion of the tutorial.
3. Procedure codes H0049 and H0050 will then be billable for the health care professional who has successfully completed the online tutorial.
4. Reimbursement is as follows:
H0049 - \$24.00 one per pregnancy
H0050 - \$48.00 one per pregnancy
5. A diagnosis code of V222 must be billed by the provider on the claim form.



Maternity Care Primary Contractors

The following organizations have been awarded contracts to provide Medicaid maternity services in Alabama effective January 1, 2010. All maternity services for Medicaid-eligible women who are pregnant or who become pregnant in the future must be coordinated through the appropriate organization.

District 1: Health Group of Alabama

Counties: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale and Marion
Phone: 1-888-500-7343

District 2: Health Group of Alabama

Counties: Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan
Phone: 1-888-500-7343

District 3: Quality of Life

Counties: Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Dekalb and Etowah
Phone: 1-888-490-0131

District 4: Greater Alabama Health Network

Counties: Bibb, Fayette, Lamar, Pickens and Tuscaloosa
Phone: 1-877-553-4485

District 5: Alabama Maternity Inc.

Counties: Blount, Chilton, Cullman, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, Walker and Winston
Phone: 1-877-997-8377

District 6: Gift of Life Foundation

Counties: Clay, Coosa, Randolph, Talladega and Tallapoosa
Phone: 1-877-826-2229

District 7: Greater Alabama Health Network

Counties: Greene and Hale
Phone: 1-877-553-4485

District 8: Tombigbee Healthcare Authority

Counties: Choctaw, Marengo, and Sumter
Phone: 1-888-531-6262

District 9: Greater Alabama Health Network

Counties: Dallas, Perry and Wilcox
Phone: 1-877-553-4485

District 10: Gift of Life

Counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery and Pike
Phone: 1-877-826-2229

District 11: Maternity Services of District Eleven

Counties: Barbour, Chambers, Lee, Macon, and Russell
Phone: 1-877-503-2259

District 12: Southwest Alabama Maternity Care LLC

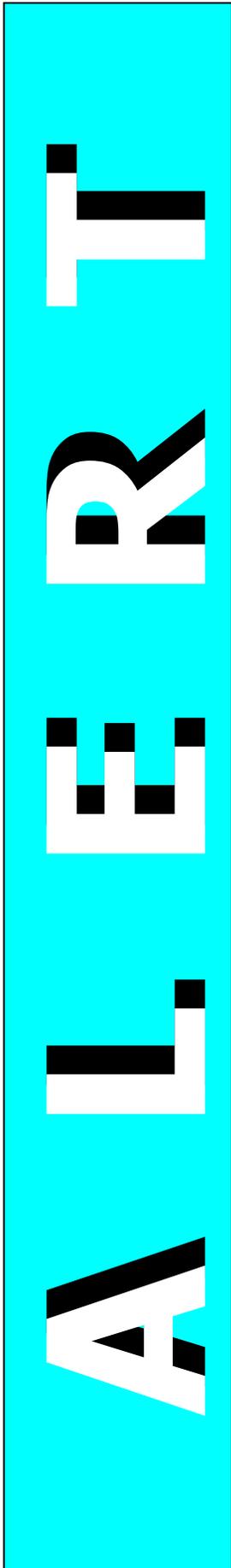
Counties: Baldwin, Clark, Conecuh, Covington, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington
Phone: 1-877-826-2229

District 13: Southeast Alabama Maternity Care LLC

Counties: Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston
Phone: 1-800-735-4998

District 14: University of South Alabama

Counties: Mobile
Phone: 1-251-415-8585



**To: Dental, Oral Surgeons, FQHCs, Health Department,
Children Specialty Clinic Providers**

RE: Dental Program Changes

The following Dental Program changes will be effective **February 15, 2010**:

1. D2394 will be **non-covered for primary posterior teeth** (A, B, I, J, T, S, L, and K).
2. Resin restorations (D2391, D2392, and D2393) have been **reduced** to the same Medicaid reimbursement as amalgam restorations (D2140, D2150, and D2160).

CDT	OLD RATE	NEW RATE as of 02/15/10
D2391	\$59.00	\$48.00
D2392	\$77.00	\$60.00
D2393	\$88.00	\$73.00

3. Prefabricated Post & Core in addition to Crown (D2952) will be **reduced** to the same Medicaid reimbursement as D2954.

CDT	OLD RATE	NEW RATE as of 02/15/10
D2952	\$151.00	\$132.00

4. **These codes will be non-covered:** D0350, D0470, D1510, D1515, D1520, D1525, D1550, D3110, D3120, D4355, D6212, D6240, D6242, D6750, and D6752.

5. D2750 and D2752 will be non-covered and providers may bill D2751.

6. **Changes to the Reimbursement Rates for the following codes are as follows:**

CDT	OLD RATE	NEW RATE as of 02/15/10
D0240	\$18.00	\$15.00
D1351	\$26.00	\$22.00
D2951	\$33.00	\$28.00
D3230	\$219.00	\$175.00
D3240	\$248.00	\$49.00
D3430	\$145.00	\$129.00
D7220	\$141.00	\$128.00
D7250	\$96.00	\$95.00
D7510	\$85.00	\$65.00
D7971	\$78.00	\$44.00
D9110	\$40.00	\$33.00
D9220	\$224.00	\$212.00
D9230	\$25.00	\$22.00

If you have any questions, please contact the Dental Program Manager at 334-353-5263.

January 25, 2010

To: ALL Providers

RE: Cost Saving Measures to be Implemented March 1, 2010

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is implementing the following cost saving measures in order to maintain a basic package of services while preserving the health care safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

Changes Related to Submitting Paper Claims

Effective March 1, 2010, all claims which do not require attachments or an Administrative Review override by Medicaid must be submitted electronically.

Which claims require attachments?

The only attachment requiring paper claims submission is a third party insurance denial. All other claims must be filed electronically beginning March 1, 2010.

*Some claims may require administrative or manual review. If you submit claims which require an administrative or manual review, these claims will continue to be filed on paper, following guidelines set forth in your specific chapter of the billing manual.

Options are available for Electronic Claims Submission:

- Medicaid's Interactive Web Portal allows claims to be submitted in an online real time environment. This service is available at no charge to providers.
- Provider Electronic Solutions (PES) software allows claims to be submitted in batch mode for processing. This service is available at no charge to providers.
- Providers can select a private software vendor for electronic claims submission. This service would involve a fee determined by the selected vendor.

Beginning on March 1, 2010, all paper claims received by HP which do not require an attachment will be returned to the provider without being processed.

Changes Related to Recipient Eligibility Inquiry via Provider Assistance Center

Effective March 1, 2010 providers must check eligibility electronically.

Electronic options for verifying eligibility:

- Medicaid's Interactive Web Portal allows providers to check eligibility in an online real time environment. This service is available at no charge to providers.
- Provider Electronic Solutions (PES) software allows eligibility verification to be submitted in batch mode. This service is available at no charge to providers.
- The Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) allows providers to check eligibility telephonically by dialing 1-800-727-7848 (in-state) or (334) 215-0111 Option 5 (out-of-state). This service is available at no charge to providers.

Providers can select a private vendor for electronic eligibility verification. This service would involve a fee determined by the selected vendor. **Beginning on March 1, 2010, all eligibility requests received by HP's Provider Assistance Center for eligibility verification will be directed to this Alert and the caller will be given the option to be transferred to the Automated Voice Response System.**

RE: Cost Saving Measures to be Implemented March 1, 2010

Changes Related to Printing and Distributing Remittance Advices (RAs)

Effective March 1, 2010, Medicaid will no longer print and distribute paper Remittance Advices (RA's) to providers.

Options available for viewing RAs

- Medicaid's Interactive Web Portal allows providers to view RAs on-line. RAs are stored for six months on the interactive database. RAs can also be printed, saved to a personal computer, or viewed from the web portal. This service is available at no charge to providers.
- Providers can select a private vendor for electronic RA download. This service would involve a fee determined by the selected vendor.

Changes Related to Claim Adjustments

Effective March 1, 2010, Medicaid will no longer accept paper adjustment request forms.

Options for performing adjustments on claims:

- Medicaid's Interactive Web Portal allows adjustments to be submitted in an online in a real time environment. This service is available at no charge to providers.
- Provider Electronic Solutions (PES) software allows providers to submit adjustments on-line in batch mode.

Beginning on March 1, 2010, adjustment requests received on paper will be returned to the provider without being processed.

Changes Related to Printing and Distributing Reports to Patient 1st Primary Care Providers and EPSDT Screening Providers.

Effective March 1, 2010, Medicaid will discontinue printing and mailing the following reports:

- EPSDT Periodic Rescreening Report
- Patient 1st Referral Report
- Monthly PMP Enrollment Roster for Patient 1st

The reports may be accessed through Medicaid's Interactive Website. The link to the Interactive Website is: <https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/ALPortal>. Once logon to the website is successful, reports may be found at the following location:

1. Trade Files
2. Download
3. Under Transaction type, select the down arrow to review all available reports.

Information may then be viewed, saved, or printed as needed in your office.

Electronic Access Methods Available Through HP

Accessing Medicaid's Interactive Web Portal:

In February 2008, letters were mailed to all providers with web portal log-on ID and initial password information. If your office has never accessed the website, refer to this letter for log-on information. If you cannot locate the letter, contact the Electronic Media Claims Helpdesk to obtain an additional copy of the letter. The phone number is 1-800-456-1242 (in-state) and (334) 215-0111 Option 2 (out-of-state). E-mail: alabamasytemsemc@hp.com (preferred method of contact is e-mail).

Accessing Provider Electronic Solutions Software:

Provider Electronic Solutions software may be downloaded from the Medicaid website at the following link: <http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/pes.aspx?tab=6>

RE: Cost Saving Measures to be Implemented March 1, 2010

Download instructions and user manual are also available at this link. To access Provider Electronic Solutions software, providers must obtain a trading partner ID. Trading partner ID's may be requested by logging on the Interactive website at the following link:

https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/documentation/Trading_Partner_ID_Request_Form.zip

Accessing Automated Voice Response System (AVRS)?

The Automated Voice Response System can be accessed through any telephone. Instructions on how to access AVRS can be found in Appendix L of the provider manual at the following link:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/Billing/5-G_Manuals/5G-2_Provider.Manual_Jan.2010/Jan10_L.pdf

Training Information

HP will be offering training on how to use Interactive Web Portal and Provider Electronic Solutions software for the upcoming changes. The workshops will be offered on-line through HP's Virtual Room Training. Training will be provided for the following claim types:

- CMS-1500
- UB-04
- Dental
- Pharmacy

Information on classes will be posted on the Medicaid website in early February. Registration and class information will be available at www.medicaid.alabama.gov. The training will cover the following topics:

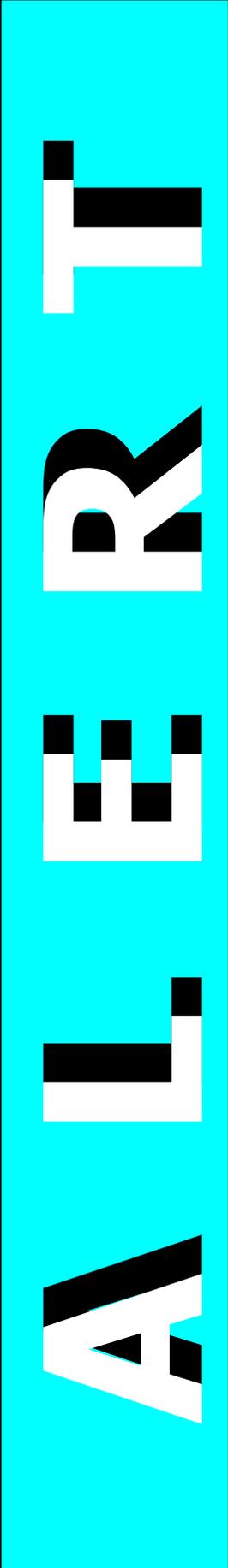
How to access the Interactive Web Portal and perform the following functions:

- Verify recipient eligibility
- Download, view, print RA's
- Download, view, print reports
- Claim submission
- Claim adjustments
- Claim voids

How to access Provider Electronic Solutions software and perform the following functions:

- Verify recipient eligibility
- Claim submission
- Claims adjustment
- Claim void

January 26, 2010



To: In-state and Border Hospital Providers

RE: InterQual ® and Adverse Events Policy and Billing Workshop

Medicaid will be implementing InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical criteria with Alabama Medicaid Local Policy and Adverse Events on all Inpatient Hospital claims for dates of service beginning June 1, 2010. Sessions for Quality Assurance staff as well as billing staff will be offered on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, February 24, 2010**, 10am-12pm Children's Hospital campus, 1600 7th Avenue South Birmingham, AL. Meeting will be held at the Bradley Lecture Center, 4th Floor of the Children's Harbor building on the campus of Children's Hospital, 6th Avenue South at 16th Street. Please park in the Park Place parking deck. (Limited seating—no more than 65). **Registration deadline for this session is Wednesday, February 17, 2010.**
- **Friday, February 26, 2010**, 1pm-3pm USA Children's and Women's Hospital Mobile, 1700 Center Street Mobile, AL. Meeting will be held in the Atlantis Room. **Registration deadline for this session is Friday, February 19, 2010.**
- **Tuesday, March 2, 2010**, 10am-12pm Alabama Hospital Association office, 500 N Eastern Blvd, Montgomery, AL. The meeting will be held in the Boardroom. (Limited seating—no more than 60) **Registration deadline for this session is Tuesday, February 23, 2010. A web conference will also be provided during this session in which registration is required. Registration deadline for the web conference is Friday, February 19, 2010. A personal link will be sent to you upon registration completion and prior to the date of the conference.**
- **Wednesday, March 3, 2010**, 1pm-3pm Decatur General Hospital, 1201 7th Street SE, Decatur, AL. Meeting will be held in the Camp Bluebird room. **Registration deadline for this session is February 23, 2010.**
- **Thursday, April 22, 2010**, 10am-12pm (Web Conference Only). A personal link will be sent to you one week prior to the date of the conference; if you have registered for this conference. **Registration deadline for this session is Monday, April 12, 2010.**

A registration form is attached. This form must be completed and faxed or e-mailed to Carolyn Thompson. Seating is limited; you may be contacted if seating is not available. For any questions, contact Carolyn Thompson via e-mail at Carolyn.thompson@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at 334-353-4650.

InterQual ® and Adverse Events Policy and Billing Workshop

Registration Form

Registration Information is required to attend any of the workshops**

Check ONLY one date:

Meeting workshops: 2/24/10 2/26/10 3/2/10 3/3/10

OR

Web conference workshops: 3/2/10 4/22/10

Name and title: _____

Hospital or Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Contact Information

Office Phone: _____ Office Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

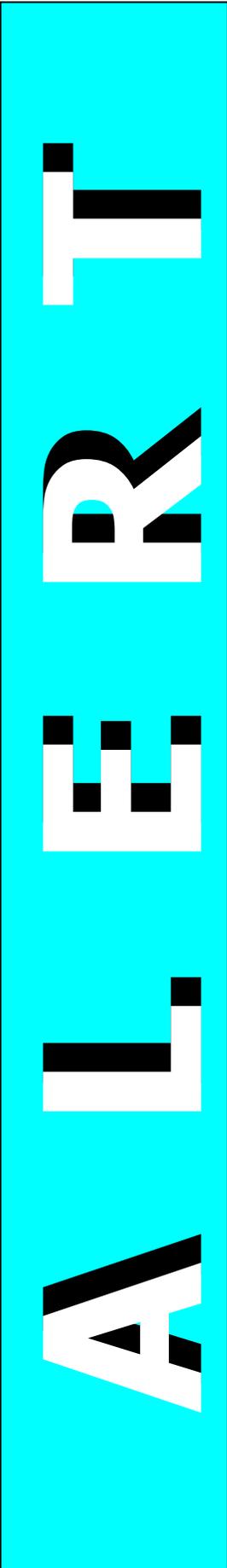
Office Contact Person: _____

Fax this registration form to: Carolyn Thompson at 334-242-0533

E-mail this registration form to: Carolyn.thompson@medicaid.alabama.gov

****Please note that there are limited spaces in each workshop. Please limit your facility to no more than two attendees per session. You may be asked to attend another session or take part in the web conference if space is not available.**

February 11, 2010



To: Dental Providers, Oral Surgeons, FQHCs, Health Departments, and Children Specialty Clinics

RE: Dental Program Changes/Dental Meeting

An open forum for Alabama Medicaid dental providers has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2010, at the Alabama Medicaid Agency, 501 Dexter Avenue in Montgomery. Directions and a map are available on the Agency's web site at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/contact/index_contact.aspx?tab=8

The meeting will be in the fourth floor boardroom for those who would like to attend in person and also will be available by conference call and web conference. To participate in the conference call or web conference and to receive future notices and information regarding the Medicaid Dental Program, please contact Nancy Rawlinson at (334) 353-4099 or by e-mail at nancy.rawlinson@medicaid.alabama.gov

ALERT

February 19, 2010

To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, and Nursing Homes

RE: Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Effective April 1, 2010, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

1. Remove from the Preferred Drug List and no longer cover, even with prior authorization, all **Brand Benzodiazepines with the exception of Diastat**, and
2. Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Daytrana -Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants/Agents for ADD/ADHD-Long Acting	Amerge - Pain Management/Antimigraine Agents
	Mycostatin -Anti-infective Agents/Antifungals
	Relpax -Pain Management/Antimigraine Agents

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

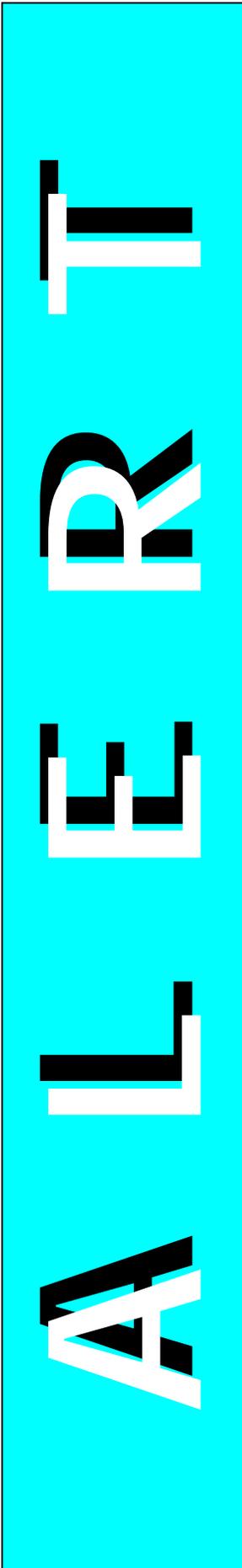
The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers are to mail or fax hard copy PA requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

March 09, 2010



To: In-state and Border Hospital Providers

RE: InterQual® and Adverse Events Policy and Billing Workshop

Medicaid will be requiring hospitals to capture non-covered days per InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical criteria with Alabama Medicaid Local Policy and Adverse Events on all inpatient hospital claims for dates of service beginning July 1, 2010. Sessions for Quality Assurance staff, as well as billing staff, will be offered on the following dates:

- **Monday, April 19, 2010**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Decatur General Hospital, 1201 7th Street SE, Decatur, AL. Meeting will be held in the Camp Bluebird room. **Registration deadline for this session is Monday, April 12, 2010.**
- **Tuesday, April 20, 2010**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Children's Hospital campus, 1600 7th Avenue S, Birmingham, AL. Meeting will be held at the Bradley Lecture Center, 4th Floor of the Children's Harbor building on the campus of Children's Hospital, 6th Avenue S at 16th Street. Please park in the Park Place parking deck. (Limited seating—no more than 65). **Registration deadline for this session is Tuesday, April 13, 2010.**
- **Monday, April 26, 2010**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., USA Children's and Women's Hospital Mobile, 1700 Center Street, Mobile, AL. Meeting will be held in the Atlantis Room. **Registration deadline for this session is Monday, April 19, 2010.**
- **Tuesday, May 4, 2010**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Alabama Hospital Association office, 500 N Eastern Blvd, Montgomery, AL. The meeting will be held in the Boardroom. (Limited seating—no more than 60) **Registration deadline for this session is Tuesday, April 27, 2010. A web conference will also be provided during this session in which registration is required. Registration deadline for the web conference is Friday, April 16, 2010. A personal link will be sent to you upon registration completion and prior to the date of the conference.**
- **Thursday, April 22, 2010**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Web Conference Only). A personal link will be sent to you one week prior to the date of the conference. This web conference will be limited to 100 recipients. **Registration deadline for this session is Monday, April 12, 2010.**

A registration form is attached to this alert. This form must be completed and faxed or e-mailed to Karen Smith. Seating is limited; you may be contacted if seating is not available. For any questions, contact Karen Smith via e-mail at karen.watkins-smith@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at 334-353-4945.

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InterQual ® and Adverse Events Policy and Billing Workshop

Registration Form

Registration Information is required to attend any of the workshops**

Check ONLY one date:

Meeting workshops: 4/19/10 4/20/10 4/26/10 5/4/10

OR

Web conference workshops: 4/22/10 5/4/10

Name and title: _____

Hospital or Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Contact Information

Office Phone: _____ Office Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

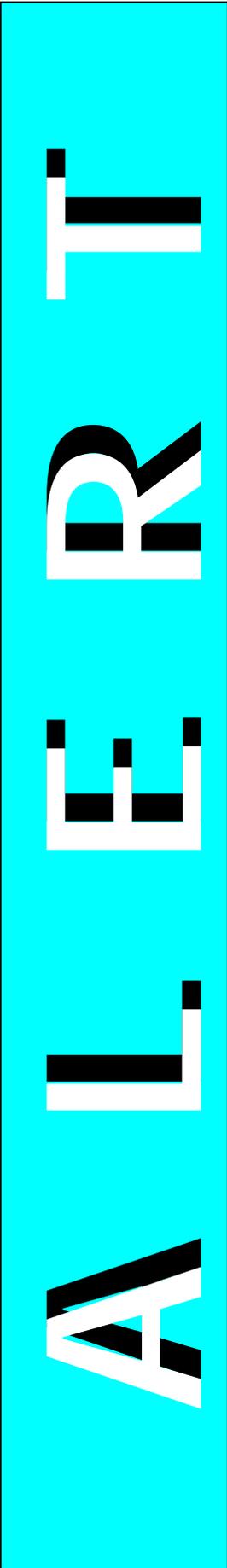
Office Contact Person: _____

Fax this registration form to: 334-353-4818

E-mail this registration form to: karen.watkins-smith@medicaid.alabama.gov.

****Please note that there are limited spaces in each workshop. Please limit your facility to no more than two attendees per session. You may be asked to attend another session or take part in the web conference if space is not available.**

March 22, 2010



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To: All Pharmacy Providers, Pharmacy Associations, and Vendors

RE: Usual & Customary Amount on Electronic Drug Claims

Effective April 13, 2010, Alabama Medicaid will accept the Usual & Customary (U & C = charge to the general public) amount in Field 426-DQ on Electronic Drug claims. Currently, the Agency requires the total amount due on a drug claim in the "Gross Amount Due" Field 430-DU while the U & C amount in Field 426-DQ is not captured.

Effective April 13, 2010, the Agency will accept the U & C amount in Field 426-DQ in the "lower of" reimbursement methodology. Pharmacies should submit their U & C amounts in Field 426-DQ, and must continue to submit the 'Total Amount Due' in the Gross Amount Due field. The Alabama Medicaid Companion Guide to the NCPDP 5.1 Specifications has been updated on the Medicaid website (www.medicaid.alabama.gov) to reflect this change. Questions related to electronic billing should be directed to HP at 1-800-456-1242 in state, and 1-334-215-0111 out of state.

March 31, 2010

To: All Hospital Providers

RE: Third Party Release of Information Policy

This notice is to clarify Alabama Medicaid's requirement of providers to notify the Agency's Third Party Division prior to releasing medical records. As indicated in the Alabama Administrative Code, Rule No. 560-X-20-.05(3), it is not the Agency's intention to deny release of information; however, requests for information pertaining to a recipient's charges are a source of third party information and, as such, must be reviewed by the Third Party Division.

Providers are to ensure that all HIPAA Privacy and Security rules are met regarding an individual's "right of access to inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about the individual" (as stated in 45 C.F.R. §164.524).

Medicaid's rule is also designed to ensure that Medicaid is informed of potential circumstances in which Medicaid may have a subrogation interest pertaining to the medical records being requested.

It does not permit providers to deny individuals access to their records. **Providers should not cite Medicaid's rule as cause for not meeting the HIPAA Privacy rule, nor should they attempt to place the responsibility for notifying the Medicaid Agency on the recipient.**

The "Request for Medical Records" form will still be available for use by providers to document that Medicaid has been notified of a medical record request on a Medicaid recipient. The form is available on the Agency's Web site at http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/release_info.aspx?tab=6

While Medicaid will continue to send a return response to the form, **a provider should not deny the release of medical information to an individual because the provider has not received a response back from Medicaid.**

To determine if Medicaid should be notified, the provider should inquire as to the purpose of the medical information and who is in need of the information. If the request meets any of the circumstances in Rule No. 560-X-20-.05(1) [attached], then the provider is not required to send Medicaid notification of the request. Otherwise, the provider should notify Medicaid of the request and provide the information to the requestor (if all other provisions have been met).

In addition, the Alabama Medicaid Agency has contracted with Health Management Systems (HMS) to handle the processing of requests for medical records. "Request for Medical Records" forms should be faxed to HMS at 866-274-5974. Other notifications to Medicaid regarding medical record releases should be provided to HMS by phone at 877-252-8949.

If you should have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Keith Thompson, Director, Third Party Division, at (334) 242-5248.

May 17, 2010

Rule No. 560-X-20-.05. Release of Information - All Providers

(1) Information pertaining to a patient's treatment (including billing statement, itemized bills, etc.) may be routinely released **ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES AND/OR TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES** if Medicaid has been billed or is expected to be billed:

- (a) The Medicaid Fiscal Agent,
- (b) The Social Security Administration,
- (c) The Alabama Vocational Rehabilitation Agency,
- (d) The Alabama Medicaid Agency,

(e) Requests from insurance companies for information pertaining to a claim filed by the provider in accordance with Medicaid Regulations and for which an assignment of benefits to the provider was furnished the insurance company.

(f) Requests by insurance companies for information to process an application for insurance, to pay life insurance benefits, or to pay on a loan.

(g) Requests from other providers for medical information needed in the treatment of patient.

(2) If information pertaining to a patient's treatment is requested by any other source, or under any other circumstance, the Alabama Medicaid Agency, Third Party Section, must be contacted **PRIOR TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION**. The only exception is when a subpoena is received during nonworking hours of the Alabama Medicaid Agency and must be responded to immediately. Should this occur, the provider may respond to the subpoena and must include with the released records a notice that the patient was covered by Medicaid. In addition, the provider must notify the Third Party Section of the subpoena as soon as possible.

(3) It is not the intention to deny release of information; however, requests for information pertaining to a recipient's charges are a source of third party information and, as such, must be reviewed by the Third Party Section.

Authority: 42 CFR Sections 432 & 433; Section 1902(a)(25), Social Security Act; Section 22-6-6 of 1975 Code of Alabama.

To: All Providers

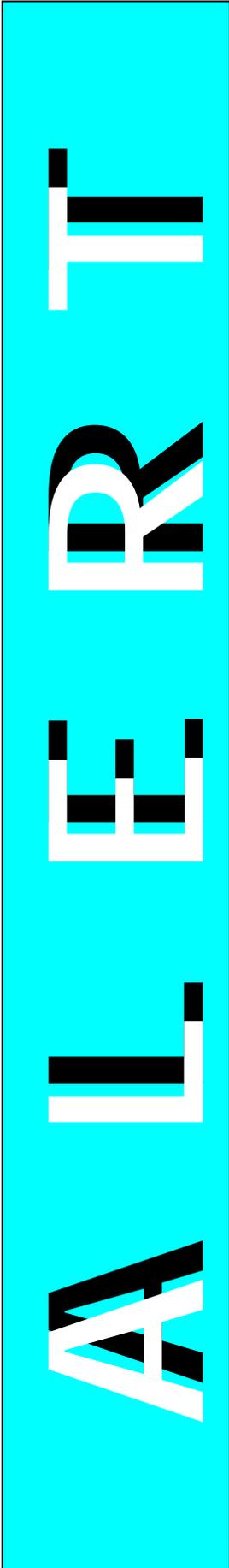
RE: Printing of RAs

The missing RA page issue for the May 21, 2010, check write has now been resolved. RAs can now be downloaded via the Web Portal. There will be two files listed until the erroneous file can be deleted. Please ensure the file you use contains all pages.

Please contact the Electronic Media Claims Help Desk if you have any questions at (800) 456-1242 for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee and (334) 215-0111 for all other locations.

May 27, 2010

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To: All Dental Providers

RE: Dental IV Sedation Certification

To ensure the safety of Alabama Medicaid recipients, state dental providers using IV sedation must submit documentation of their certification to the Agency prior to August 1, 2010.

On August 1, 2010, Alabama Medicaid will deny procedure codes D9241 and D9220, if the provider does not submit their IV sedation certification to Medicaid.

To ensure that Medicaid enrollment files are updated prior to the August 1, 2010 start date, providers are asked to complete the form below and return it with a copy of your IV sedation certification by June 21, 2010 to:

Provider Enrollment
HP Enterprise Services
301 Technacenter Dr
Montgomery, AL 36117

Please complete the following:

Provider's Name _____

Provider's NPI _____

Medicaid Numbers (please include Medicaid assigned numbers for all clinics the provider is enrolled to provide services)

ATTACH a copy of Certificate

May 27, 2010

To: All Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Mental Health Service Providers, and Nursing Homes

RE: PDL Update

Effective July 1, 2010, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will: Require prior authorization (PA) for payment of non-preferred brands in the First Generation Antihistamine drug class, and Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Besivance -EENT Preparations/Antibacterials	Optivar -EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents
	Pramox -Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents/Antipruritics and Local Anesthetics

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers requesting PAs by mail or fax should send requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

June 10, 2010

To: All In-State and Border Hospital Providers

RE: Adverse Events Policy

Effective July 1, 2010, Medicaid will require hospitals to report Adverse Events. The following is approved policy that will be a part of Medicaid's Billing Manual and Administrative Code.

Serious Preventable Events, Hospital-Acquired Conditions, and Present on Admission Indicators and Billing

Adverse Events are the events that must be reported to Medicaid by the hospital. To be reportable, these events must meet the following criteria:

- The event must be reasonably preventable as determined by a root cause analysis or some other means.
- The event must be within the control of the hospital.
- The event must be clearly and unambiguously the result of a preventable mistake made and hospital procedures not followed, and not an event that could otherwise occur.
- The error or event must result in significant harm. The events for consideration should be limited to those that yield a serious adverse result. Serious adverse result is defined as one that results in death, a serious disability or a substantial increase in the duration and/or complexity of care that is well beyond the norm for treatment of the presenting condition. A serious disability is defined as a major loss of function that endures for more than 0 days, is not present at the time services were sought and is not related to the presenting condition.
- Any process for identifying non-payable events must actively incorporate some element of case-by-case review and determination. While the source and cause of some adverse events may be clear, most would require further investigation and an internal root cause analysis to determine the cause of the serious preventable event and to assign ultimate accountability. Pursuant to these guidelines, hospitals will not seek payments for additional days directly resulting from adverse events.

Hospital-Acquired Conditions are conditions that are reasonably preventable and were not present or identified at the time of admission; but are either present at discharge or documented after admission. The Present on Admission (POA) Indicator is defined as a set of specified conditions that are present at the time the order for inpatient hospital occurs. Conditions that develop during an outpatient encounter, including the emergency room, observation, or outpatient surgery, are considered POA.

Reporting Adverse Events

Adverse events must be reported to Medicaid by encrypted emailing required information to: AdverseEvents@medicaid.alabama.gov. Each hospital will receive a password specifically for e-mail reporting. Reportable "Adverse Events" include:

- Surgery on a wrong body part
- Wrong surgery on a patient
- Surgery on a wrong patient

Reports will require the following information: Recipient first and last name, date of birth, Medicaid number, date event occurred and event type. A sample form is on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website at www.medicicaid.alabama.gov under Programs/Hospital Services although hospitals may submit their own form as long as it contains all required information.

Reporting Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HAC) and Present on Admission (POA) on the UB-04 Claim Form

Hospitals should use the POA indicator on claims for these events. If no claim is submitted for the event or the event cannot be filed on a UB-04 claim form, then the Alabama Medicaid Agency is to be notified via encrypted e-mail at AdverseEvents@medicaid.alabama.gov. The following information will be required: Recipient first and last name, date of birth, Medicaid number, date of event occurrence and event type. A sample form can be found on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website or a hospital may submit their own form as long as it contains all of the required information. Below are Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs) with ICD-9 Codes that hospitals are required to report on the UB-04 claim form.

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Selected HAC	CC/MCC (ICD-9-CM Codes)
Foreign Object Retained After Surgery	998.4 (CC) and 998.7 (CC)
Air Embolism	999.1 (MCC)
Blood Incompatibility	999.6 (CC)
Pressure Ulcer Stages III & IV	707.23 (MCC) and 707.24 (MCC)
Falls and Trauma: -Fracture -Dislocation -Intracranial Injury -Crushing Injury -Burn -Electric Shock	Codes within these ranges on the CC/MCC list: 800-829.1 830-839.9 850-854.1 925-929.9 949-949.5 991-994.9
Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)	996.64—Also excludes the following from acting as a CC/MCC: 112.2 (CC), 590.10 (CC), 590.11 (MCC), 590.2 (MCC), 590.3 (CC), 590.80 (CC), 590.81 (CC), 595.0 (CC), 597.0 (CC), 599.0 (CC)
Vascular Catheter-Associated Infection	999.31 (CC)
Manifestations of poor glycemic control	250.10-250.13 (MCC), 250.20-250.23 (MCC), 251.0 (CC), 249.10-249.11 (MCC), 249.20-249.21 (MCC)
Surgical Site Infection, Mediastinitis, Following Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)	519.2 (MCC) and one of the following procedure codes: 36.10-36.19.
Surgical Site Infection Following Certain Orthopedic Procedures	996.67 (CC) OR 998.59 (CC) and one of the following procedure codes: 81.01-81.08, 81.23-81.24, 81.31-81.38, 81.83, or 81.85.
Surgical Site Infection Following Bariatric Surgery for Obesity	Principal Diagnosis code-278.01 OR 998.59 (CC) and one of the following procedure codes: 44.38,44.39, or 44.95
Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Following Certain Orthopedic Procedures	415.11 (MCC), 415.19 (MCC), or 453.40-453.42 and one of the following procedure codes: 81.51-81.52, 81.54.

The hospital may use documentation from the physician’s qualifying diagnoses to identify POA which must be documented within 72 hours of the occurrence. Medicaid also recommends that the event be reported to Medicaid on the claim or via e-mail within 45 days of occurrence.

It is the responsibility of the hospital to identify these events, report them, and not seek any additional payment for additional days. Medicaid will accept all POA indicators as listed below:

- **Y**-Yes. Diagnosis was present at time of inpatient admission.
- **N**-No. Diagnosis was not present at time of inpatient admission.
- **U**-No information in the record. Documentation insufficient to determine if the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.
- **W**-Clinically undetermined. Provider unable to clinically determine whether the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.
- **1**-Unreported/Not used. Exempt from POA reporting.

If the value code ‘81’ is indicated; then non-covered days must be present and the amount field must be greater than ‘0’.

It is the hospital's responsibility to include all supporting documentation with the chart for a review to be conducted by Medicaid’s contracted Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). Submission of a root cause analysis is not required but may be submitted as part of the documentation to support billing.

A document with frequently asked questions has been posted on the Agency’s website under Programs/Hospital Services. Any further questions regarding this notice should be directed to Jerri Jackson at 334-242-5630 or Karen Smith at 334-353-4945.

June 22, 2010

To: All In-State and Border Hospital Providers

RE: Utilization Review Policy

Effective for admissions on or after July 1, 2010, Medicaid will require hospitals to report dates that do not meet InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical Criteria and Alabama Medicaid Local Policy on the UB-04 claim form. The following is approved policy that will be a part of Medicaid's Billing Manual and Administrative Code.

Utilization Review for Inpatient Hospital Admissions and Concurrent Stays

Medicaid will utilize Alabama Medicaid Adult and Pediatric Inpatient Care Criteria (SI/IS) for utilization review, billing and reimbursement purposes.

- It is the hospital's responsibility to utilize its own physician advisor.
- The attending physician and/or resident may change an order up to 30 days after discharge, as long as the patient met criteria for inpatient or observation services.

For admissions and continued stays on or after July 1, 2010, Medicaid will require in-state and border hospital providers to report dates of service that do not meet InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical Criteria and Alabama Medicaid Local Policy.

Dates of service that do not meet InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical Criteria and Alabama Medicaid Local Policy must be reported on the UB-04.

- Hospital Providers are required to use Occurrence Span Code 74 to identify days not meeting InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical Criteria and Alabama Medicaid Local Policy, and
- Must enter the occurrence span dates for the dates that do not meet InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical Criteria and Alabama Medicaid Local Policy.

Inpatient psychiatric and rehabilitation services in an acute care facility will be exempt from reporting dates of service that do not meet InterQual® Adult and Pediatric Medical Criteria and Alabama Medicaid Local Policy.

The Alabama Medicaid Local Policy is available on the Alabama Medicaid website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov under *Programs/Hospital Services*. Hospital providers are to use the 2009 criteria until the 2010 criteria have been reviewed.

A percentage of admissions and concurrent stay charts will be reviewed by the Alabama Medicaid Agency and a Quality Improvement Organization contracted by the Agency.

All in-state and border hospitals must submit Medical Care Evaluation (MCE) Studies (i.e. Performance Improvement Studies) and Utilization Review (UR) Plans to the contracted Quality Improvement Organization every year upon request.

A document with frequently asked questions has been posted on the Agency's website under *Programs/Hospital Services*. Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Jerri Jackson at 334-242-5630 or Karen Smith at 334-353-4945.

June 22, 2010

To: All Psychologists

RE: Change in Billing for Diagnostic Testing Codes and Use of Modifiers

Based on the support and input of Alabama's psychologists, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will make two changes to Chapter 34 of the Provider Manual, effective July 1, 2010.

1. **The units of measure for Diagnostic Testing Codes 96101 – 96103 and 96118 – 96120 can be billed in 30-minute fractional units.** When billing claims, .5 units will equal 30 minutes; 1 unit will equal 1 hour; 1.5 units will equal 1 ½ hours, etc. Providers cannot bill less than a 30-minute increment.

The time started and time ended of service delivery will not include time spent for interpretation of tests at this time.

2. **Service documentation requirements have been further clarified and expounded.**

Modifiers will be appended to procedure codes when services are performed by eligible allied mental health professional staff. The reimbursement rate for services performed and billed with a modifier will be 75% of the allowable rate. Services performed by an allied mental health professional but not billed with the modifier will be subject to recoupment on post payment review. The modifiers are as follows:

- **U6** for a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or Associate Licensed Counselor (ALC)
- **U7** for a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- **AJ** for a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW)
- **HO** for an individual with a masters degree or above, not yet licensed but has successfully completed a practicum as a part of the requirements for the degree or has six months of post master's level clinical experience supervised by a master's level or above clinician with two years of post graduate clinical experience.

If you have further questions, you may contact Karen Smith via e-mail at karen.watkins-smith@medicaid.alabama.gov or telephone at 334-353-4945.

June 28, 2010

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TO: All Providers

RE: Denial 1825 – “COBA Denial-Do Not Crossover”

What does denial 1825 “COBA Denial – Do Not Crossover” Mean?

This denial means HP does not automatically accept for payment your crossover claims from Medicare.

Changes to COBA Indicators on Provider File

Effective August 1, 2010, HP will turn all Coordination of Benefits Agreement (COBA) indicators on our provider file from “No” to “Yes”. The “Yes” status means all claims will automatically crossover from Medicare to Medicaid and will process according to established Medicaid guidelines, without being denied for error 1825. Claims automatically crossing over from Medicare are identified with ICN beginning with “30”.

What to do if you do not want your COBA indicator turned to “Yes”

If you do **not** want your COBA indicator turned to a “Yes” status, please send a letter on official office letterhead to HP Provider Enrollment.

The letter should state: *“I do **not** want my COBA indicator turned on to allow claims to automatically crossover.”* Please include your NPI and all associated secondary identifiers.

The letter may be faxed to (334) 215-4298.

EXCEPTION: Providers whose COBA Indicators will remain “No”

The following providers’ COBA indicators will **not** be turned on since their claims should never crossover from Medicare to Medicaid because of the difference in billing and reimbursement for services:

- Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Renal Dialysis Facilities

Crossover claims from Medicare for these providers will continue to receive error 1825.

July 1, 2010

To: All Providers

RE: Identifying Oil-Spill Related Illnesses/Injuries for Medicaid Recipients

In order to track and evaluate health outcomes and costs related to the BP Oil Spill, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will begin use of claims billing indicators to identify services provided to Alabama Medicaid recipients when treated for an oil-spill related illness or injury.

Effective immediately, providers are asked to use the following indicators on applicable claims submitted to Alabama Medicaid:

- Professional Claims (837P, other electronic methods, or CMS-1500) – Enter **Modifier “U9”** (Disaster-Related Service or Illness) with all appropriate procedure codes. This modifier should follow any other modifiers currently required for claims payment.
- Institutional Claims (837I, other electronic methods, or UB-04) – Enter the **Condition Code “DR”** (Disaster-Related Service or Illness) as the first condition code with all appropriate services.
- Pharmacy POS Transactions – Enter the NCPDP Field **Reason for Service Code “RE”** (Suspected Environmental Risk) with all appropriate services. This reason for service code should follow any other reason for service code required for claims payment.

Providers should begin immediately to use these indicators on claims submitted for Medicaid payment. Please contact the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989 with any related questions.

July 12, 2010

To: All Hospice Providers

RE: Concurrent Care for Children Under the Hospice Election

Effective immediately, Medicaid will no longer require parents with children under the age of 21 receiving hospice care, to waive all rights to Medicaid services covered under Medicaid for the duration of hospice care. Based on the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, a voluntary election to receive hospice care for a child shall not constitute a waiver of any rights of the child to be provided with, or to have payments made for services that are related to the treatment of the child's condition for which a diagnosis of terminal illness has been made. Children can now receive services related to the treatment of the condition for which a diagnosis of terminal illness was made.

For additional information or further clarification, please contact Samantha McLeod at (334)242-5584 or Samantha.McLeod@medicaid.alabama.gov .

July 19, 2010

To: All Providers

RE: Synagis® Criteria for 2010 – 2011 Season

The Alabama Medicaid Agency has updated its prior authorization criteria for Synagis®.

- The approval time frame for Synagis® will begin October 1, 2010 and will be effective through March 31, 2011.
- Up to five doses will be allowed per recipient in this timeframe. Some recipients may only receive up to a max of 3 doses, depending on the gestational and chronological age.
- There are no circumstances that will result in approval of a sixth dose.
- If a dose was administered in an inpatient setting, the date the dose was administered must be included on the request form.
- For approval of requests, the recipient must meet gestational and chronological age requirements. In order to meet chronological age requirements, the recipient must not exceed the specified age at the start of the RSV season.
- Prescribers, not the pharmacy, manufacturer or any other third party entity, are to submit requests for Synagis® on a separate prior authorization form (Form 351) **directly** to Health Information Designs and completed forms may be accepted beginning September 1, 2010 (for an October 1 effective date).
- A copy of the hospital discharge summary from birth or documentation of the first office visit with pertinent information (gestational age, diagnosis, etc.) is required on all Synagis® PA requests.
- If approved, each subsequent monthly dose will require submission of the recipient's current weight and last injection date and may be faxed to HID by the prescribing physician or dispensing pharmacy utilizing the original PA approval letter.
- Letters will be faxed to both the prescriber and the dispensing pharmacy notating approval or denial.

Criteria

Alabama Medicaid follows the 2009 updated American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines regarding Synagis® utilization. The form and complete updated criteria specific to Synagis® are available on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov under Programs: Pharmacy Services: Prior Authorization/Overrides Criteria and Pharmacy Forms: 2010-2011 Synagis® Criteria and Forms.

Additional questions regarding Synagis® criteria can be directed to the Agency's Prior Authorization contractor, Health Information Designs at 1-800-748-0130.

July 30, 2010

To: All Home Health Providers

RE: Home Health Certification and Re-Certification Forms

Effective immediately, Medicaid will no longer require providers to add information included on Medicaid's Home Health Certification/Re-Certification Forms to the Medicare Home Health Certification and Plan of Care Form.

Currently, there are two approved forms for documenting Medicaid home health certification and re-certification admissions:

- A. *Medicaid's Home Health Certification & Re-Certification Forms (Forms 377 & 378).*
- B. *Medicare's Home Health Certification and Plan of Care Form (Form CMS-485).*

Formerly, providers using the Medicare Form CMS-485 were required to add all missing information from Medicaid Forms 377 & 378. This information includes: adding the name, address, and relationship of the caregiver, etc. and continues to include the falsification statement/paragraph.

After a thorough evaluation, the Agency found it unnecessary to add this information to the CMS-485 form. However, providers are still required to keep this essential information on file to be in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid regulations.

Please address questions or concerns to Monica Abron, at (334)-242-5642.

August 31, 2010

To: All Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Mental Health Service Providers, and Nursing Homes Providers

RE: PDL Update

Effective October 1, 2010, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

1. Require prior authorization (PA) for payment of non-preferred brands in the Genitourinary Smooth Muscle Relaxants drug class.
2. Require prior authorization (PA) for payment of generic lansoprazole and omeprazole-sodium bicarbonate. Preferred brands as well as OTC versions of Proton Pump Inhibitors will continue to be available with no PA necessary. The preferred status of the Proton Pump Inhibitors are listed below:

Preferred Brands	Preferred Generic or OTC	Non-Preferred Brand or PA Generic
Aciphex		
	Prevacid OTC	
	Prilosec OTC	
	Zegerid OTC	
		Dexilant
		lansoprazole (generic)
		Nexium
		omeprazole-sodium bicarbonate (generic)
		pantoprazole (generic)
		Prevacid*
	omeprazole	Prilosec*
		Protonix*

3. Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Aricept ODT -Behavioral Health/Alzheimer's Agents	Azor -Cardiovascular Health/Calcium Channel Blockers/Combos
Oxytrol -Genitourinary Agents/ Genitourinary Smooth Muscle Relaxants	Cozaar -Cardiovascular Health/ Angiotensin-II Receptor Antagonists
Teveten -Cardiovascular Health/ Angiotensin-II Receptor Antagonists	Diovan HCT -Cardiovascular Health/ Angiotensin-II Receptor Antagonists/Combos
Teveten HCT -Cardiovascular Health/ Angiotensin-II Receptor Antagonists/Combos	DynaCirc CR -Cardiovascular Health/ Calcium Channel Blockers
	Exforge -Cardiovascular Health/Calcium Channel Blockers/Combos
	Hyzaar -Cardiovascular Health/Angiotensin-II Receptor Antagonists/Combos
	Lescol -Cardiovascular Health/HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors

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PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
	Lescol XL -Cardiovascular Health/HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors
	Maxalt -Pain Management/Autonomic Agents/Selective Serotonin Agonists
	Niaspan -Cardiovascular Health/Miscellaneous Antilipemic Agents
	Norpace -Cardiovascular Health/Antiarrhythmics
	Norpace CR -Cardiovascular Health/Antiarrhythmics
	Treximet -Pain Management/Autonomic Agents/Selective Serotonin Agonists
	Veramyst -EENT Preparations/Intranasal Corticosteroids

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers requesting PAs by mail or fax should send requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

September 02, 2010

To: All Providers

RE: National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), Section 6507 requires that State Medicaid agencies implement National Correct Coding Initiatives (NCCI) edits into their claims processing systems. These edits are intended to reduce coding errors because of clerical mistakes and incorrect use of codes or their units of service. Therefore, in the coming months, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will implement the following edits:

- (1) NCCI procedure to procedure edits for practitioner* and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) claims
- (2) NCCI procedure to procedure edits for outpatient hospital (including emergency department and observation) claims
- (3) Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) units of services for practitioner* and ASC claims
- (4) MUE units of service for outpatient hospital (including emergency department and observation) claims
- (5) MUE units of service for DME claims

**Practitioners are defined as: all practitioners, hospitals, providers, or suppliers eligible to bill the relevant HCPCS/CPT codes pursuant to applicable portions of the Social Security Act of 1965, and the Code of Federal Regulations*

NCCI procedure to procedure edits are coding edits, and are based on coding principles. The coding principles are explained in the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services available on the CMS NCCI website at <http://www.cms.gov>

Educational tools are available on the CMS NCCI website at <http://www.cms.gov/nationalcorrectcodinitied>.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency will notify the providers when these NCCI edits are scheduled to be implemented.

September 08, 2010

ALABAMA MEDICAID

October 2010 Provider Manual

Payment Delay Alerts



Click on Bookmarks to the left to view Alerts

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Attention: All Provider Associations

March 5, 2004 - Checkwrite Release for Nursing Home and Maternity Care Providers

March 19, 2004 - Checkwrite for All Providers

Medicaid funds for the nursing home and maternity care providers for the March 5, 2004 checkwrite will be released on April 6, 2004. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. As of April 6, 2004, all funds for the March 5, 2004 checkwrite will be released.

As funds for the March 19, 2004 checkwrite are released, Medicaid's web site will be updated with the actual release date. Medicaid's web site may be accessed at *www.medicaid.state.al.us*.

April 2, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

March 19, 2004 - Checkwrite for Nursing Homes and Maternity Care Providers

Funds for the nursing home and maternity care providers for the March 19, 2004 checkwrite will be released on April 8, 2004. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

As funds for other providers are released, Medicaid's web site will be updated with the actual release date. Medicaid's web site may be accessed at www.medicaid.state.al.us.

April 7, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

March 19, 2004 - Checkwrite Release

April 09, 2004 - Checkwrite Release for Pharmacy Providers

Medicaid funds for the remainder of the March 19, 2004 checkwrite will be released on April 15, 2004. All funds from the March 19, 2004 checkwrite will now be released. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

Medicaid funds for the Pharmacy providers for the April 09, 2004 checkwrite will be released on April 15, 2004. As funds for other providers are released, Medicaid's web site will be updated with the actual release date. Medicaid's web site may be accessed at *www.medicaid.state.al.us*.

April 13, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

April 9, 2004 - Checkwrite Release for Non-Institutional and Nursing Home Providers

Medicaid funds for the Non-institutional and nursing home providers for the April 9, 2004 checkwrite will be released on April 22, 2004. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

As funds for hospitals and maternity care providers are released, Medicaid's web site will be updated with the actual release date. Medicaid's web site may be accessed at www.medicaid.state.al.us.

April 20, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

May 7, 2004, Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the May 7, 2004, checkwrite will be released on time (May 13, 2004).

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

May 11, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

May 21, 2004, Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the May 21, 2004, checkwrite will be released on time (May 27, 2004).

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

May 24, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

ATTENTION: All Provider Associations

June 4, 2004, Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the June 4, 2004, checkwrite will be released on time (midnight June 10, 2004).

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

June 8, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

The total Medicaid funds for the June 18, 2004 checkwrite will not be released on schedule. The funds for the Pharmacy and Maternity Care providers will be released on June 24, 2004.

Funds for all other providers will not be released. Medicaid's website will be updated with the actual release date. The Alabama Medicaid website may be accessed at www.medicaid.state.al.us.

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

June 22, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

June 18, 2004 - Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the remainder of the June 18, 2004 checkwrite will be released on July 7, 2004. All funds from the June 18, 2004 checkwrite will now be released. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

July 6, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

July 9, 2004 - Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the July 9, 2004 checkwrite will be released on time (July 15, 2004). Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

July 12, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

July 23, 2004 - Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the July 23, 2004 checkwrite will be released on time (July 29, 2004). Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

July 26, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

August 6, 2004 - Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the August 6, 2004 checkwrite will be released on time, August 12, 2004. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

August 9, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

August 20, 2004 - Release of Funds

Medicaid funds for the August 20, 2004 checkwrite will be released on time, August 26, 2004. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

August 24, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

September 3, 2004, Release of Funds

The total Medicaid funds for the September 3, 2004 checkwrite will not be released on schedule. Funds for all providers, EXCEPT Hospitals and Nursing Homes, will be released on Friday, September 10, 2004.

Funds for the Hospital and Nursing Home Providers will not be released. Medicaid's website will be updated with the actual release date. The Alabama Medicaid website may be accessed at www.medicaid.state.al.us.

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

September 9, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

September 3, 2004, Release of Funds--Hospitals and Nursing Home Providers

Medicaid funds for the September 3, 2004, checkwrite for Hospitals and Nursing Homes will be released on Monday, September 13, 2004.

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

September 10, 2004

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Attention: All Provider Associations

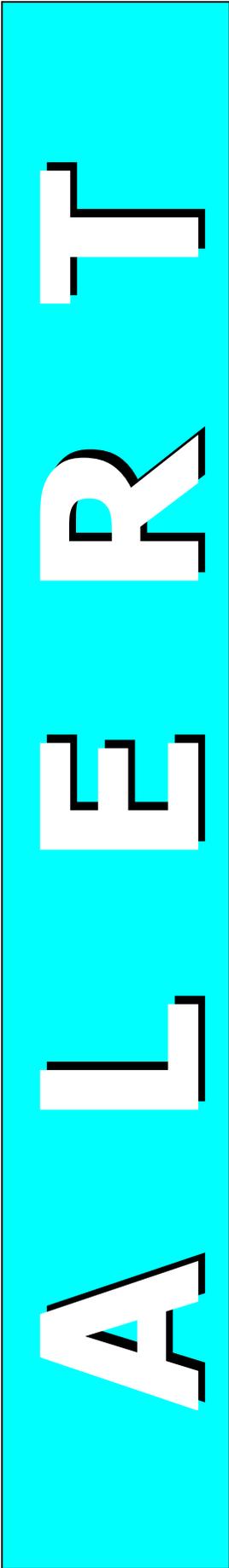
September 10, 2004, Release of Funds

The total Medicaid funds for the September 10, 2004 checkwrite will not be released on schedule. Funds for all providers, EXCEPT Pharmacies and Nursing Homes, will be released on Thursday, September 16, 2004.

Funds for the Pharmacies and Nursing Home Providers will not be released. Medicaid's website will be updated with the actual release date. The Alabama Medicaid website may be accessed at www.medicaid.state.al.us.

Please verify direct deposit status with your bank.

September 14, 2004



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Attention: All Provider Associations

January 28, 2005: EDS Medicaid System Downtime

EDS will be performing maintenance on its translator software from approximately 2 pm - 5 pm CT on Sunday January 30, 2005. The translator software is one of the first stages in the claims submission (837), eligibility verification (270) via X.25 line, batch web eligibility verification (270), batch web claim status (276) and web prior authorization (278) processes on the EDS system. What this means is that none of these transactions will be processed during the maintenance window. Please be advised that if any of these transactions are submitted via the web for batch processing during this timeframe they will not be processed until the translator maintenance is completed. Interactive eligibility (270) and interactive claim status (276) submitted via X.25 mode will be down during this time.

This will not impact eligibility verification via AVRS, web interactive eligibility (270), web claim status (276) or interactive pharmacy claim submission. If you have questions please call the ECS helpdesk at 1-800-456-1242.

January 28, 2005

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Attention: Alabama Hospital Association

03/18/05 - Checkwrite Release for Hospital Providers

Medicaid funds for the hospital providers for the 03/18/05 checkwrite will NOT be released on time. Medicaid's web site will be updated with the actual release date. Medicaid's web site may be accessed at www.medicaid.state.al.us.

March 23, 2005

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Attention: Alabama Hospital Association

03/18/05 - Checkwrite Release for Hospitals

Medicaid funds for the hospital providers for the 03/18/05 checkwrite will be released on 03/29/05.

March 28, 2005

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To: Provider Associations

Monthly Case Management Payments Delayed

Due to a systems problem, the Monthly Case Management payments were not processed on the May 11, 2007 financial cycle. The problem will be corrected and payments will be processed on the May 25, 2007 financial cycle.

May 15, 2007

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To: Nursing Home Providers

RE: Payment Delay

The payments scheduled for the September 5 and September 12, 2008 **checkwrites** have been delayed. The process to release the payments for the September checkwrites will begin October 1, and the payments should be accessible on October 3, 2008.

Additional questions concerning the delayed payments should be directed to the Medicaid office at 334-242-5600, or to the Nursing Home Association at 334-271-6214.

September 11, 2008