



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Juneau Office

P.O. Box 110650
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0650
Main: 907.465.3082
Fax: 907.465.2499

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
House Finance Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Neal Foster
House Finance Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable DeLena Johnson
House Finance Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives Edgmon, Foster, and Johnson:

During the House Finance Committee meeting on January 25, 2023, Representative Josephson and Director Steininger discussed the need for health care coverage after Medicaid recertification. Below are some comments from the Department of Health.

The department is continuing to develop awareness for Medicaid recipients to aid them in unwinding from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Division of Public Assistance will provide notice to individuals who are no longer eligible for Medicaid following a review of their case. This notice directs individuals to the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (www.healthcare.gov) for affordable health care coverage.

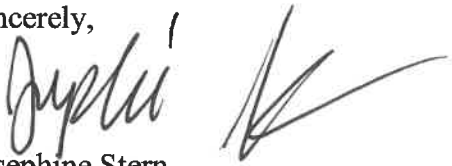
The department anticipates the following impacts to the Medicaid program:

- Increase in claim reprocessing
- Increase in provider and recipient calls to confirm eligibility
- Increase in retroactive service authorization reviews
- Increase in fair hearings related to coverage determinations / retroactive service authorizations / denied claims
- An impact to Care Management Program as an unknown percent may be removed from Care Management Program for eligibility purposes
- Increase to both first and second level appeals related to claims impacted by retro-eligibility
- Increase in "complaints" to the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse hotline regarding patient payments / balance billings / refunds
- A small effort for the Care Management Program to print a universe of manual coupons in the Eligibility Information System (EIS) / Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility System (ARIES) related to retro-eligibility

There will be no impact if it is determined that somebody was "disqualified" retroactively. Benefits cannot be taken back after they are issued. Instead, benefits would be cut off on the first day of the upcoming month.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 907-465-1630.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josephine Stern", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Josephine Stern
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Valerie Rose, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance
Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Torrey Jacobson, Office of Management and Budget
Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner
Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer
Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner
Farina Brown, Acting Director of Division of Behavioral Health
Renee Gayhart, Director of Division of Health Care Services
Deb Etheridge, Director of Division of Public Assistance
Christy Lawton, Acting Director of Division of Public Health
Tony Newman, Acting Director of Division of Senior and Disabilities Services
Dustin Scown, Budget Manager
Courtney Enright, Legislative Liaison

Log 10218/2023