

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PHC PARTICIPATING GROUPS – 6/8/20

We have been working with our vendor-partners on ways to best support you and your participants during this period of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. The situation is changing day-to-day, but following are the most recent updates:

CVS/Caremark

Effective June 15th, CVS will no longer be leveraging the disaster emergency tool to allow for early refills on 30 day maintenance medications.

Prior Authorizations set to originally expire between March 23 and June 30 have been extended 90 days.

Alaska Regional Hospital PPO Agreement

Agreement to include Providence Hospital in Anchorage In-Network has been extended

In order to remove potential barriers to care and to help protect the member health plans from excessive costs during the COVID-19 crisis, the PHC has negotiated a temporary amendment to the Alaska Regional Hospital Agreement which will allow a waiver of the non-PPO benefit differentials and increase the discount at Providence Hospital if participants are treated at that facility. That agreement was initially negotiated to expire May 31, 2020. The agreement has been extended through August 31, 2020.

Key provisions of the agreement:

- This is included as an extension of the Alaska Regional Hospital agreement and is available to PHC plans who have signed on to that agreement. As a result, individual plans do not need to sign a separate agreement with Providence.
- The extension began April 1 and was extended through August 31, 2020. It applies to all services, not only services related to COVID-19.
- The Alaska Regional Hospital pricing continues to be more favorable than the Providence discounted pricing.
- Participating plans must agree to pay Providence as an in-network provider during this period. Participating plans must provide notice to their covered participants. Suggested language:

Due to the unusual circumstances of COVID-19, Providence Hospital in Anchorage will be considered an in-network facility for the period April 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020. Alaska Regional Hospital remains an in-network facility, as well. If you receive services at Providence Hospital instead of Alaska Regional Hospital during this period, the non-PPO penalties will not apply and Providence will give our health plan preferred pricing.

Note: In most cases, the cost of services at Alaska Regional Hospital will be better than the cost of services at Providence. If you have a choice of provider, Alaska Regional Hospital is the lower cost option for you and for the health plan.

We thank both Providence and Alaska Regional Hospitals for their exceptional service to our community and for their flexibility and willingness to work with our health plan during this difficult time.

- Aetna has helped facilitate the agreement with Providence and will facilitate the change in claims process. We will notify the applicable TPAs of the discount arrangements at Providence, so they can adjudicate the claims appropriately.
- This does not impact the non-PPO provisions at ANMC or any other facility.

Date of update: 6/8/20