
Table of Contents

State/Territory Name: Alaska

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 16-0001

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS 179 Form
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Seattle Regional Office
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600, MS/RX-200
Seattle, WA 98104



Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

November 2, 2016

Valerie Davidson, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503-7167

RE: Alaska State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal Number 16-0001

Dear Ms. Davidson:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has completed its review of Alaska State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal Number 16-0001. This SPA clarifies Alaska's transportation benefit as to the arrangement of transportation services by a broker and the arrangement of transportation services by a government entity. This SPA also includes the recognition of the federal per diem as the maximum limit for government operated accommodation providers.

This SPA is approved effective July 1, 2016, as requested by the state.

CMS would like to thank the state for the continuing effort to improve coordination of transportation and health services for Medicaid beneficiaries in Alaska. If there are additional questions please contact me, or your staff may contact Bill Vehrs at bill.vehrs@cms.hhs.gov or at (503) 399-5682.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by David L. Meacham -S

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of David L. Meacham.

Date: 2016.11.03 12:55:15 -07'00'

David L. Meacham
Associate Regional Administrator

cc:
Jon Sherwood, DHSS

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER:
~~16-001~~ (P&I) 16-0001 (P&I)

2. STATE
AK

FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)

TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE
July 1, 2016

5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (*Check One*):

- NEW STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN AMENDMENT

COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (*Separate Transmittal for each amendment*)

6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION:
42 CFR 440.170(a)

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT:

a. FFY 2016 \$ 0
b. FFY 2017 \$ 0

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:
Attachment 3.1A pages 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d
Attachment 3.1 D page 1
Attachment 4.19 B page 11b

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (*If Applicable*):
Attachment 3.1 A pages 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d (P&I)
Attachment 3.1 D page 1 (P&I)
Attachment 4.19 B page 11b (P&I)

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT:

The clarification of Alaska's transportation benefit as to the arrangement of transportation services by a broker and the arrangement of transportation services by a government entity. Also included is the recognition of the federal per diem as the maximum limit for government operated accommodation providers.

11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (*Check One*):

- GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL:

13. TYPED NAME: Jon Sherwood

14. TITLE: Deputy Commissioner - DHSS

15. DATE SUBMITTED: September 9, 2016

16. RETURN TO:

Division of Health Care Services
4501 Business Park Blvd, Suite 24, Bldg. L
Anchorage, AK 99503

FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY

17. DATE RECEIVED:
9/9/2016

18. DATE APPROVED:
11/02/2016

PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:
7/01/2016

20. SIGNATURE:  Digitally signed by David L. Meacham - S

21. TYPED NAME:
David L. Meacham

22. TITLE:  Associate Regional Administrator Date: 2016.11.03 12:57:18 -0700

23. REMARKS:

11/3/16: State authorize P&I change to box 1 and 9

AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE
AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY

24. Any other medical care and any other type of remedial care recognized under State law and specified by the Secretary.

A.1. Transportation

- No limitations
 With limitations

(1) Transportation services provided will include

- Wheelchair van
- Taxi
- Stretcher car
- Bus passes
- Secured Transportation
- Air Transportation
- Ferry Transportation
- Meals
- Lodging
- Escort
- Other transportation (please describe)

A.2. Brokered Transportation

- Provided under section 1902(a)(70)

Alaska's statewide transportation broker for non-emergency transportation is not a government entity and does not directly provide transportation services.

The statewide brokerage is cost effective because the system does not add any new services and thus incurs no additional costs. Administrative process streamlining also ensures cost effectiveness.

The State assures it has established a non-emergency medical transportation program in order to more cost-effectively provide transportation, and can document, upon request from CMS, that the transportation broker was procured in compliance with the requirements of 45 CFR 92.36 (b)-(f).

(1) The state will operated the broker program without the requirements of the following paragraphs of section 1902(a)

- (1) Statewideness (indicate areas of State that are covered)
- (10)(B) Comparability (indicate participating beneficiary groups)
- (23) Freedom of choice (indicate mandatory population groups)

(2) Transportation services provided will include

- Wheelchair van
- Taxi
- Stretcher car
- Bus passes
- Secured Transportation
- Air Transportation
- Ferry Transportation
- Meals
- Lodging
- Escort
- Other transportation (please describe)

(3) The State assures that transportation services will be provided under a contract with a broker who:

- is selected through a competitive bidding process based on the State's evaluation the broker's experience, performance, references, resources, qualifications, and costs;
- has oversight procedures to monitor beneficiary access and complaints and ensures that transport personnel are licensed, qualified, competent, and courteous;
- is subject to regular auditing and oversight by the State in order to ensure the quality of the transportation services provided and the adequacy of beneficiary access to medical care and services;
- complies with such requirements related to prohibitions on referrals and conflict of interest as the Secretary shall establish (based on prohibitions on physician referrals under section 1877 and such other prohibitions and requirements as the Secretary determines to be appropriate);

(4) The broker contract will provide transportation to the following categorically needy mandatory populations:

- Low-income families with children (section 1931)

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- Low-income pregnant women
 - Low-income infants
 - Low-income children 1 through 5
 - Low-income children 6 - 19
 - Qualified pregnant women
 - Qualified children
 - IV-E Federal foster care and adoption assistance children
 - TMA recipients (due to employment)
 - TMA recipients (due to child support)
 - SSI recipients

(5) The broker contract will provide transportation to the following categorically needy optional populations:

- Optional Low-income pregnant women
- Optional low-income infants
- Optional targeted low-income children
- Individuals under 21 who are under State adoption assistance agreements
- Individuals under age 21 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday
- Individuals who meet income and resource requirements of AFDC or SSI
- Individuals who would meet the income & resource requirements of AFDC if childcare costs were paid from earnings rather than by a State agency
- Individuals who would be eligible for AFDC if State plan had been as broad as allowed under Federal law
- Individuals who would be eligible for AFDC or SSI if they were not in a medical institution
- Individuals infected with TB
- Individuals screened for breast or cervical cancer by CDC program
- Individuals receiving COBRA continuation benefits
- Individuals in special income level group, in a medical institution for a least 30 consecutive days, with gross income not exceeding 300% of SSI income standard
- Individuals receiving home and community based waiver services who would only be eligible under State plan if in a medical institution
- Individuals terminally ill if in a medical institution and will receive hospice care
- Individuals aged or disabled with income not above 100% FPL

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- Individuals receiving only an optional State supplement in a 209(b) State
 - Individuals working disabled who buy into Medicaid (BBA working disabled group)
 - Employed medically improved individuals who buy into Medicaid under TWWIIA Medical Improvement Group
 - Individuals disabled age 18 or younger who would require an institutional level of care (TEFRA 134 kids)

(6) The State will pay the contracted broker by the following method:

- Risk capitation
- Non-risk capitation
- Other – Broker makes direct payment to individual providers then submits a claim to Medicaid. Brokers are paid a brokerage fee.

A.3. Governmental Agency

Administrative case management of transportation as a state plan function is performed and overseen by the state or other governmental entities.

Air and ferry transportation arranged by a government entity other than the state does not require purchase through the broker contract.

METHODS OF ASSURING TRANSPORTATION

I. Optional Medical Services

Alaska uses a transportation broker under the state plan brokerage authority at 440.170(a)(4) for air, and ferry transportation only and 440.170(a) authority for other transportation related expenses.

- A. Necessary medically related transportation services include transportation provided by ambulance, taxicab, ferry, or other common carrier.
- B. Transportation services include expenses for transportation determined to be necessary by the agency to secure medical examinations and treatment for a recipient [440.170(a)]
- C. Included under transportation services are the costs of necessary food and lodging for the recipient and, in accordance with § 440.170(a)(3), an escort to accompany the recipient.

II. Administrative Services

Administrative case management of transportation as a state plan function is performed and overseen by the state or other governmental entities.

Transportation Services

Emergency and non-emergency transportation services are paid at the lesser of the amount billed the general public or the state maximum allowable if such a maximum has been established. State developed fee schedule rates are the same for both public and private providers. The agency's fee schedule rates were set as of August 27, 2012 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. All rates are published at

<http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/medicaidalaska/providers/FeeSchedule.asp> .

The following types of emergency transportation services for recipients are payable at the lesser of the amount billed the general public or the state maximum allowable, published at

<http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/medicaidalaska/providers/FeeSchedule.asp>:

- Ground ambulance service, whether within the same community or outside of it;
- Air ambulance service.

The following types of non-emergency transportation services for recipients and authorized escorts are payable at the amount billed the general public or the state negotiated rate, when applicable:

- Commercial airline service;
- Ferry service;
- Ground transportation.

The State maintains files of negotiated rates.

With the exception of government operated accommodations, meal and lodging costs for recipients and approved escorts are reimbursed at the lesser of the amount billed the general public or the state maximum allowable per day, which is the government rate established for all publicly funded travel-related room and board.

Costs for recipients and approved escorts utilizing government-operated accommodations are reimbursed at the lesser of the amount billed to the general public or the federally negotiated per diem rate.

Prior authorization is required for all non-emergency transportation and all lodging and meal costs for both recipients and escorts.