

**BEFORE THE ALASKA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ON REFERRAL
BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
D.J	)	OAH No. 26-0003-MDX
_____	)	

DECISION

I. Introduction

Medicaid recipient D.J needed emergency medical care while traveling outside Alaska. The Alaska Medicaid program can cover out-of-state emergency medical services, but requires providers to enroll in the program to receive payment. The Pennsylvania providers who treated D have not enrolled and therefore the Division of Health Care Services denied the claims. D’s parents appealed. The applicable regulation does require providers to enroll as a condition of payment. Responsibility for enrollment rests with the providers—not with the J family. Because the providers have not enrolled in the Alaska Medicaid program, the Division’s decision is affirmed.

II. Facts

D.J is an Alaska Medicaid recipient. He contracted meningitis in July 2025 while attending a family reunion in Pennsylvania, and was rushed to the emergency room and later hospitalized in a second facility.¹ While ensuring her son received the care he needed, Ms. J had the composure and forethought to research how Medicaid coverage works while out of state and learned that she needed to promptly notify the hospitals that D had Medicaid coverage.² Ms. J did so, then turned her focus to her son, reasonably assuming his care would be covered.³ D ultimately made a full recovery.⁴

When the two Pennsylvania hospitals submitted claims to Alaska’s Medicaid program, the Division denied them because neither provider is not actively enrolled in Alaska’s Medicaid program.⁵

¹ Ex. C; E.J testimony.

² E.J testimony.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Ex. C; E.J testimony.

⁵ Ex. A, D.

D's parents, E and O.J, requested a hearing, which was held on February 12, 2026. As of the date of the hearing, neither Pennsylvania provider has enrolled in the Alaska Medicaid program.⁶

III. Discussion

Medicaid is partially funded by the federal government, but each state operates its own program. Alaska has adopted regulations specifying that emergency medical services rendered outside Alaska to an Alaska Medicaid recipient are covered.⁷ The J's argue that under this provision, Alaska Medicaid should pay the Pennsylvania providers' claims. However, the next subsection of the same regulation states that out-of-state providers will be paid only if they enroll in the Alaska Medicaid program.⁸ The J's argue that this second subsection should not apply here because the first subsection ends in a period. But subsections of a statute or regulation do not exist in isolation. "[W]e must, whenever possible, interpret each part or section of a statute with every other part or section, so as to create a harmonious whole."⁹ Reading the regulation as a whole, it is true that Alaska Medicaid will cover emergency medical services provided outside Alaska. But it is also true that an out-of-state provider needs to enroll in Alaska's Medicaid program to be reimbursed. The two Pennsylvania providers have not enrolled. Therefore, under the regulation, the Division properly denied the claims.

This does not mean the J's are personally responsible for these medical bills. The obligation to enroll rests with the provider, not a Medicaid recipient or the recipient's family.¹⁰ The Division's representative explained that the enrollment process is not onerous and that out-of-state providers regularly enroll and then Alaska Medicaid provides payment. Ms. J mentioned that one of the Pennsylvania providers told her the J's were responsible for the bill and that the account was being referred to collections. That issue is unfortunately beyond the jurisdiction of this tribunal and the Alaska Medicaid program to address.

IV. Conclusion

By regulation, emergency medical services provided to a Medicaid recipient outside Alaska are covered by Alaska's Medicaid program, but only when the provider enrolls in the

⁶ Laura Baldwin testimony.

⁷ 7 AAC 105.100(a).

⁸ 7 AAC 105.100(b).

⁹ *State, Dep't of Com., Cmty. & Econ. Dev., Div. of Ins. v. Progressive Cas. Ins. Co.*, 165 P.3d 624, 629 (Alaska 2007).

¹⁰ 42 C.F.R. § 447.15; *cf.* 7 AAC 145.005(d).

program. The providers here did not do so and therefore the Division correctly denied the claims. The Division's decision is affirmed.

Dated: February 13, 2026

Signed

Rebecca Kruse
Administrative Law Judge

Adoption

The undersigned, by delegation from the Commissioner of Health, adopts this Decision, under the authority of AS 44.64.060(e)(1), as the final administrative determination in this matter.

Judicial review of this decision may be obtained by filing an appeal in the Alaska Superior Court in accordance with Alaska R. App. P. 602(a)(2) within 30 days after the date of this decision.

DATED this 1st day of April, 2026.

By: Signed
Name: Rebecca Kruse
Title: Administrative Law Judge

[This document has been modified to conform to the technical standards for publication. Names may have been changed to protect privacy.]