

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

MEDICAID VISION SERVICES COVERAGE & PAYMENT

- 7 AAC 110. Medicaid Coverage; Professional Services.
- 7 AAC 145. Medicaid Payment Rates.



PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT
August 26, 2019

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: October 14, 2019

**Please see the public notice for details about how to
comment on these proposed changes.**

Notes to reader:

1. Except as discussed in note 2, new text that amends an existing regulation is **bolded and underlined**.
2. If the lead-in line above the text of each section of the regulations states that a new section, subsection, paragraph, or subparagraph is being added, or that an existing section, subsection, paragraph, or subparagraph is being repealed and readopted (replaced), *the new or replaced text is not bolded or underlined*.
3. [ALL-CAPS TEXT WITHIN BRACKETS] indicates text that is to be deleted.
4. When the word “including” is used, Alaska Statutes provide that it means “including, but not limited to.”
5. Only the text that is being changed within a section of the current regulations is included in this draft. Refer to the text of that whole section, published in the current Alaska Administrative Code, to determine how a proposed change relates within the context of the whole section and the whole chapter.

**Title 7 Health and Social Services.
Chapter 110. Medicaid Coverage; Professional Services.**

7 AAC 110.705 is repealed and readopted to read:

7 AAC 110.705. Vision care services.

(a) The department will pay only for the vision services and products identified in the *Fee Schedule for Vision Services*, adopted by reference in 7 AAC 160.900, subject to the provisions of this section.

(b) The department will pay for the following services in each calendar year for a recipient under 21 years of age:

(1) one vision examination if the vision examination meets the requirements of 7 AAC 110.710;

(2) any vision examination, in addition to the examination in (1) of this subsection, if the department gives prior authorization based upon medical justification submitted by the provider;

(3) one complete pair of eyeglasses, or a one-year supply of contact lenses, that meets the requirements of (d) of this section;

(4) one additional complete pair of eyeglasses, or additional supply of contact lenses, prorated for the remainder of the year, that meets the requirements of (d) of this section, if the

(A) first pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses are lost or broken; or

(B) prescription has changed.

(5) any subsequent complete pair of eyeglasses, or subsequent supply of contact lenses, prorated for the remainder of the year, that meets the requirements of (d) of this section, if the department gives prior authorization based upon medical justification submitted by the provider.

(c) The department will pay for the following services for a recipient 21 years of age or older:

(1) in each calendar year period

(A) one vision examination, if the vision examination meets the requirements of 7 AAC 110.710;

(B) any vision examination, in addition to the examination in (1)(A) of this subsection, if the vision examination meets the requirements of 7 AAC 110.710 and if the department gives prior authorization based upon medical justification submitted by the provider;

(2) in each two-year calendar year period

(A) one complete pair of eyeglasses, or two one-year supplies of contact lenses that meet the requirements of (d) of this section;

(B) one additional complete pair of glasses, or additional supply of contact lenses, prorated for the remainder of the two-year period, that meets the requirements of (d) of this section if the department gives prior authorization based upon medical justification submitted by the provider.

(d) The department will pay for contact lenses and contact lens fittings that meet the requirements of this section if the

(1) claim is accompanied by written medical justification; and

(2) contact lenses are medically necessary as a result of

(A) cataract surgery;

(B) aphakia;

(C) keratoconus;

(D) corneal degeneration;

(E) rejection of an implant; or

(F) ocular surface disease or abrasion requiring temporary bandaging

contact lenses.

(e) In addition to authorization requirements identified in this section, the following vision products and services require prior authorization by the department, based upon medical justification submitted by the provider:

(1) ultraviolet coating;

(2) prism lenses;

(3) specialty lenses;

(4) specialty frames; and

(5) tinted lenses.

(Eff. 2/1/2010, Register 193; am 3/1/2013, Register 205; am 3/22/2014, Register 209;
am____/____/____, Register____)

Authority: AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030 AS 47.07.040

7 AAC 110.715 is repealed and readopted to read:

7 AAC 110.715. Noncovered vision care services. The department will not pay for

- (1) aspherical lenses;
- (2) progressive or no-line multi-focal lenses;
- (3) vision therapy services for recipients 21 years of age or older;
- (4) polarized lenses;
- (5) anti-reflective or mirror coating;
- (6) lenses for placement into frames that are not covered under 7 AAC 110.705;
- (7) the placement of any lenses into frames that are not covered under 7 AAC 110.705;
- (8) fitting of a vision product that is not covered under 7 AAC 110.705;
- (9) fitting of a vision product that is shipped to the recipient; or
- (10) repair of a vision product that is not covered under 7 AAC 110.705.

(Eff. 2/1/2010, Register 193; am____/____/____, Register____)

Authority: AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030 AS 47.07.040

Chapter 145. Medicaid Payment Rates.

7 AAC 145.280(d) is repealed and readopted to read:

7 AAC 145.280. Vision examinations and services payment rates.

(d) In addition to the rate paid under (a) - (c) of this section, the department will pay a provider for shipping eyeglasses and contact lenses that are dispensed by mail. Effective July 1 of each year, the department will establish the reimbursement rate for shipping at a rate equal to the United States Postal Service priority mail small flat rate box rate effective on July 1 of that year.

(Eff. 2/1/2010, Register 193; am 3/1/2013, Register 205; am____/____/____, Register____)

Authority: AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030 AS 47.07.040