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**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
ALASKA**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Triptaa Surve, Project Coordinator  
Department of Health

**FROM:** April Simpson, Alaska Administrative Code Coordinator   
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

**DATE:** May 29, 2025

**RE:** Filed Permanent Regulations: Department of Health

Department of Health regulations re: Medicaid Behavioral Health Services State Plan  
Service Authorization (7 AAC 135)

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Attorney General File:	2024200550
Regulation Filed:	5/29/2025
Effective Date:	7/1/2025
Print:	254, July 2025

cc with enclosures: Beth Parsons, Paralegal 2  
Department of Law

Bob Dame, Alaska Legal Analyst  
LexisNexis



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Law**

CIVIL DIVISION

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May 29, 2025

The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110015  
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

Re: *7 AAC 135: DOH: Medicaid Behav. Health Services State Plan Service  
Authorization*  
Our file: 2024200550

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

The Department of Law has reviewed the attached regulations of the Department of Health against the statutory standards of the Administrative Procedure Act. Based upon our review, we find no legal problems. This letter constitutes the written statement of approval under AS 44.62.060(b) and (c) that authorizes your office to file the attached regulations. The regulations were adopted by the Department of Health after the close of the public comment period.

The regulations amend 7 AAC 135 to update standards related to Medicaid service authorizations and limitations for behavioral health state plan services. Changes include the removal of certain prior authorization requirements, replacing the 'in a fiscal year' requirement for the total hours a provider may provide short-term crisis intervention services to an 'in a single encounter' requirement, and updating the coverage and timing requirements for behavior identification assessments.

The April 2, 2025 public notice and the May 28, 2025 adoption order each state that this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation. Therefore, a fiscal note under AS 44.62.060 is not required.

Please note that the Department of Health has requested an effective date of July 1, 2025 to ensure that the state's Medicaid behavioral health state services plan remains effective upon the expiration of the Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment (SPA) on June 30, 2025.

No technical corrections were necessary to conform the regulations in accordance with AS 44.62.060.

Sincerely,

TREG TAYLOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Rebecca C. Polizzotto  
Rebecca C. Polizzotto  
Chief Assistant Attorney General  
Legislation, Regulations, and  
Legislative Research Section

Digitally signed by  
Rebecca C. Polizzotto  
Date: 2025.05.29  
12:31:02 -08'00'

RCP/BWS

CC w/enclosure: Triptaa Surve, Project Coordinator  
Department of Health

Laura Russell, Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Law

Brad Sharp, Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Law

ORDER ADOPTING CHANGES TO REGULATIONS  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The attached ten pages of regulations, dealing with Medicaid Behavioral Health Services State Plan Service Authorization are adopted and certified to be a correct copy of the regulation changes that the Department of Health adopts under the authority of AS 47.05.010, and AS 47.07.030, and after compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), specifically including notice under AS 44.62.190 and 44.62.200 and opportunity for public comment under AS 44.62.210.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

In considering public comments, the Department of Health paid special attention to the cost to private persons of the regulatory action being taken.

The regulation changes adopted under this order take effect on July 1, 2025, as provided in AS 44.62.180.

Heidi  
Hedberg

Digitally signed by  
Heidi Hedberg  
Date: 2025.05.28  
09:16:22 -08'00'

Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner  
Department of Health

FILING CERTIFICATION

*Ami Simpson for*  
↓

I, Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on May 29  
2025, at 1:50 p.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.040 -  
44.62.120.

*Ami Simpson*  
for Lieutenant Governor *Nancy Dahlstrom*

Effective: July 1, 2025

Register: 254, July 2025

**FOR DELEGATION OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY**

**I, NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, designate the following state employees to perform the Administrative Procedures Act filing functions of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor:**

**April Simpson, Regulations and Initiatives Specialist**

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
signed and affixed the Seal of the State of  
Alaska, in Juneau, on May 15th, 2023.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nancy Dahlstrom", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**NANCY DAHLSTROM  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

7 AAC 135.040(b) is amended to read:

(b) A community behavioral health services provider or mental health physician clinic may provide the following behavioral health clinic services without prior authorization from the department:

(1) any combination of individual, group, and family psychotherapy under 7 AAC 135.150 [, NOT TO EXCEED 30 HOURS FOR EACH RECIPIENT IN A STATE FISCAL YEAR];

(2) psychiatric assessments under 7 AAC 135.110(e) [, NOT TO EXCEED FOUR PER RECIPIENT IN A STATE FISCAL YEAR];

(3) psychological and neuropsychological testing and evaluation under 7 AAC 135.110(g) [, NOT TO EXCEED SIX HOURS PER RECIPIENT IN A STATE FISCAL YEAR, EXCEPT THAT NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING AND EVALUATION IS LIMITED TO 12 HOURS PER RECIPIENT IN A STATE FISCAL YEAR IF THE PROVIDER HAS DOCUMENTATION VALIDATING THE PROVIDER'S QUALIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING AND EVALUATION SERVICES];

(4) pharmacologic management services under 7 AAC 135.140 [, NOT TO EXCEED ONE VISIT PER RECIPIENT PER WEEK DURING THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE RECIPIENT BEGINS RECEIVING PHARMACOLOGIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES, AND, THEREAFTER, NOT TO EXCEED ONE VISIT PER RECIPIENT PER MONTH AS LONG AS THE RECIPIENT IS RECEIVING A SERVICE UNDER THIS CHAPTER, UNLESS MORE FREQUENT MONITORING IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF

(A) THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICATION; OR

(B) A RECIPIENT'S UNUSUAL CLINICAL REACTION TO A

MEDICATION];

(5) an [IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT ALREADY RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THIS CHAPTER AT THE TIME THE ASSESSMENT IS PROVIDED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, ONE] integrated mental health and substance use intake assessment under 7 AAC 135.110, or a combination of a [ONE] mental health intake assessment and a [ONE] substance use intake assessment under 7 AAC 135.110; the assessment or combination of assessments must consist of

(A) one or more face-to-face sessions; and

(B) a review of collaterally connected information;

(6) repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [BASED ON A CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT PLAN, ONE INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE INTAKE ASSESSMENT UNDER 7 AAC 135.110, OR A COMBINATION OF ONE MENTAL HEALTH INTAKE ASSESSMENT AND ONE SUBSTANCE USE INTAKE ASSESSMENT UNDER 7 AAC 135.110, EVERY SIX MONTHS];

(7) short-term crisis intervention services under 7 AAC 135.160, or a combination of behavioral health clinic service, rehabilitation service, and intervention service under 7 AAC 135.010 that are included in the crisis plan [,] that do not exceed 22 consecutive hours in a single encounter [OF THE TOTAL SHORT-TERM CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES PROVIDED TO A RECIPIENT DURING A STATE FISCAL YEAR];

(8) screening and brief intervention services under 7 AAC 135.240 [, WITH NO LIMIT].

7 AAC 135.040(c)(1) is amended to read:

(1) **case management services under 7 AAC 135.180; a directing clinician may bill not more than one hour each week for service monitoring for a recipient of case management services** [CASE MANAGEMENT, NOT TO EXCEED 180 HOURS PER RECIPIENT PER STATE FISCAL YEAR; NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR PER WEEK PER RECIPIENT MAY BE USED IN MONITORING BY THE DIRECTING PHYSICIAN OF THE PROVISION OF SERVICES];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(2) is amended to read:

(2) individual therapeutic behavioral health services for children under 7 AAC 135.220, or a combination of individual therapeutic behavioral health services for children and peer support services under 7 AAC 135.210 and 7 AAC 135.220; [THE SERVICES OR COMBINATION OF SERVICES MAY NOT EXCEED 100 HOURS PER RECIPIENT PER STATE FISCAL YEAR];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(3) is amended to read:

(3) group therapeutic behavioral health services for children under 7 AAC 135.220 [, NOT TO EXCEED 140 HOURS PER RECIPIENT PER STATE FISCAL YEAR];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(4) is amended to read:

(4) family therapeutic behavioral health services for children under 7 AAC 135.220, or a combination of family therapeutic behavioral health services for children and peer support services under 7 AAC 135.210 and 7 AAC 135.220; [THE SERVICES OR



COMBINATION OF SERVICES MAY NOT EXCEED 180 HOURS PER RECIPIENT PER FISCAL YEAR;]

7 AAC 135.040(c)(8) is amended to read:

(8) medication administration services under 7 AAC 135.260, limited to one billable service each day [AS PROVIDED IN THE RECIPIENT'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT PLAN];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(9) is amended to read:

(9) [ONE] medical evaluation of a recipient receiving [IN AN] opioid use disorder treatment services [PROGRAM PER ADMISSION FOR THAT OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAM], including

(A) consultation and referral; and

(B) [VERIFICATION OF ONE YEAR OF ADDICTION; AND

(C)] establishing dosage for medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder [METHADONE OR ANOTHER AGONIST OR PARTIAL AGONIST];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(10) is amended to read:

(10) medication administration services of medication for the treatment of an opioid use disorder or alcohol use disorder [METHADONE OR ANTABUSE ADMINISTRATION AS PRESCRIBED BY A PHYSICIAN];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(11) is amended to read:

(11) withdrawal management services under 7 AAC 135.190, not to exceed one withdrawal management service episode each day; in this paragraph, "service episode" means the completion of services identified in this paragraph for which a single payment is made in accordance with 7 AAC 145.580 [, WITH NO LIMIT];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(12) is amended to read:

(12) behavioral health screening in accordance with 7 AAC 135.100 to determine eligibility for admission to a treatment program [, LIMITED TO ONE SCREENING PER PROGRAM ADMISSION FOR NEW OR RETURNING RECIPIENTS];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(13) is amended to read:

(13) medical evaluation for a recipient prior to providing [NOT RECEIVING METHADONE, LIMITED TO ONE MEDICAL EVALUATION PER RECIPIENT PER ADMISSION TO] withdrawal management services [TREATMENT];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(14) is amended to read:

(14) behavioral health treatment plan review for a recipient in an opioid [USE DISORDER] treatment program [, LIMITED TO ONE REVIEW PER ADMISSION];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(15) is amended to read:

(15) day treatment services for children under 7 AAC 135.250, not to exceed [180 HOURS PER STATE FISCAL YEAR; DAY TREATMENT SERVICES MAY NOT BE

PROVIDED MORE THAN] six hours each [PER] school day;

7 AAC 135.040(c)(17) is amended to read:

(17) residential substance use disorder treatment services under 7 AAC 135.280,  
not to exceed one billable service each day [WITH NO LIMIT];

7 AAC 135.040(c)(18) is amended to read:

(18) short-term crisis stabilization services under 7 AAC 135.170 that do not  
exceed 22 consecutive hours in a single encounter; and

[(A) DO NOT EXCEED 22 HOURS OF THE TOTAL SHORT-TERM  
CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICES PROVIDED TO A RECIPIENT DURING A  
STATE FISCAL YEAR; AND

(B) ARE PROVIDED DURING A PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY  
THAT IS DOCUMENTED IN THE RECIPIENT'S CLINICAL RECORD.]

7 AAC 135.040(c)(19) is amended to read:

(19) autism services provided in accordance with 7 AAC 135.350 [THAT DO  
NOT EXCEED MORE THAN

(A) A TOTAL OF 1,040 HOURS IN A SIX-MONTH PERIOD FOR  
EITHER

(i) ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT BY PROTOCOL;

(ii) GROUP ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT BY  
PROTOCOL; OR

(iii) A COMBINATION OF ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR

TREATMENT BY PROTOCOL AND GROUP ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR

TREATMENT BY PROTOCOL;

(B) 52 HOURS OF ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT BY  
PROTOCOL MODIFICATION IN A SIX-MONTH PERIOD;

(C) 12 FAMILY ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR TREATMENT GUIDANCE  
SESSIONS IN A 12-MONTH PERIOD OF TIME;

(D) ONE BEHAVIOR IDENTIFICATION REASSESSMENT IN A SIX-  
MONTH PERIOD; AND

(E) THE INITIAL BEHAVIOR IDENTIFICATION ASSESSMENT  
CONDUCTED BY A LICENSED BEHAVIOR ANALYST IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
7 AAC 135.350(b) FOR A NEW OR RETURNING RECIPIENT].

7 AAC 135.040(f) is repealed:

(f) Repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT PAY FOR MORE  
THAN ONE SERVICE EPISODE PER DAY OF A DETOXIFICATION SERVICE. IN THIS  
SUBSECTION, "SERVICE EPISODE" MEANS THE COMPLETION OF ALL SERVICES  
IDENTIFIED IN THIS SECTION FOR WHICH A SINGLE PAYMENT IS MADE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH 7 AAC 145.580].

7 AAC 135.040(h) is repealed:

(h) Repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [IN THIS SECTION, "STATE FISCAL YEAR" HAS  
THE MEANING GIVEN "FISCAL YEAR" IN AS 37.05.920 AND 37.05.990]. (Eff.

Register 254, July 2025

HEALTH

10/1/2011, Register 199; am 4/9/2017, Register 222; am 7/1/2018, Register 226; am 11/10/2019, Register 232; am 4/24/2020, Register 234; am 6/30/2021, Register 238; am 12/23/2022, Register 244; am 7 / 1 / 2025, Register 254)

**Authority:** AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030

7 AAC 135.160(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) does not exceed 22 hours of the total short-term crisis intervention services provided to a recipient [DURING A STATE FISCAL YEAR].

(Eff. 10/1/2011, Register 199; am 12/23/2022, Register 244; am 2/2/2024, Register 249; am 7 / 1 / 2025, Register 254)

**Authority:** AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030

The introductory language of 7 AAC 135.210(c) is amended to read:

(c) **Peer** [SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION IN 7 AAC 135.040, PEER] support services may be offered as a standalone service or in combination with

...

(Eff. 10/1/2011, Register 199; am 4/24/2020, Register 234; am 6/30/2021, Register 238; am 2/2/2024, Register 249; am 7 / 1 / 2025, Register 254)

**Authority:** AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030

7 AAC 135.300(a)(1)(C) is repealed:

(C) repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [OBTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION  
FOR PROVIDING AN EXTENSION OF AUTISM SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE

WITH 7 AAC 105.130 AND 7 AAC 135.040(d)];

7 AAC 135.300(a)(2)(B) is repealed:

(B) repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [OBTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION  
FOR PROVIDING AN EXTENSION OF AUTISM SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH 7 AAC 105.130 AND 7 AAC 135.040(d)];

7 AAC 135.300(a)(3)(D) is repealed:

(D) repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [OBTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION  
FOR PROVIDING AN EXTENSION OF AUTISM SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH 7 AAC 105.130 AND 7 AAC 135.040(d)];

(Eff. 7/1/2018, Register 226; am 7 / 1 / 2025, Register 254)

**Authority:** AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030

The introductory language of 7 AAC 135.350(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department will pay for an initial behavior identification assessment **for a new or returning patient** if **the assessment** [IT] is conducted by a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst, and if **the assessment** [IT]

...

The introductory language of 7 AAC 135.350(c) is amended to read:

(c) **The** [NOT MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS, THE]  
department will pay for a behavior identification reassessment **if the reassessment is** conducted

by a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst [TO OBTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION UNDER 7 AAC 135.040(d) TO EXTEND AUTISM SERVICES]. The reassessment must establish

...

7 AAC 135.350(g) is repealed:

(g) Repealed 7 / 1 / 2025 [AFTER THE INITIAL SIX MONTHS OF PLANNED SERVICES PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 7 AAC 135.040(c)(19)(A) AND (B), AND THE INITIAL BEHAVIOR IDENTIFICATION ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZED IN 7 AAC 135.040(c)(19)(E), TO RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR ANY OF THE ADDITIONAL RECIPIENT SERVICES IDENTIFIED IN (a) - (f) OF THIS SECTION, A PROVIDER MUST OBTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION UNDER 7 AAC 135.040(d) AND MEET THE REQUIREMENTS (c) AND (h) - (j) OF THIS SECTION].

(Eff. 7/1/2018, Register 226; am 5/25/2022, Register 242; am 7 / 1 / 2025, Register 254)

**Authority:** AS 47.05.010 AS 47.07.030