



Applicable Alaska Code: 18.09.200

July 22, 2016

RE: Notice of State Vaccine Supply Policy Change effective January 1, 2017

To All Payers and other interested parties:

All Payers subject to the reporting under the Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program (AVAP) are receiving this notice well in advance of the final opt-out year election due date. AVAP was initiated in 2015 to make possible the universal-select purchase of vaccines in Alaska. It provides funding for all vaccines federally recommended for insured children and for adult vaccines selected by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS).

Under this program, all children and adults (who receive vaccine from an opt in provider) in Alaska have been eligible to receive state-supplied vaccine, regardless of whether they are insured by a Payer participating in AVAP. To aid in the initial transition and advance improved health care for all Alaskans, during AVAP's first two years DHSS paid for vaccines needed to cover beneficiaries of Payers that had opted out of the AVAP program.¹ However, (1) having completed a successful program launch, (2) having surpassed 95% payer participation with timely compliance, (3) mindful of increasing stresses affecting Alaska's state budget and (4) desiring to assure payer equity, AVAP's governing Council has instituted the following policy change for the 2017 calendar year:

Beginning January 1, 2017, beneficiaries with non-participating Payers will be unable to receive state-supplied vaccine. Notices will be afforded to health care providers and the public concerning any such non-participating Payer.

As the vast majority of provider practices only receive their vaccine supply through the state, this may negatively affect your beneficiaries' vaccine access.

Opt-out forms for 2017 have been modified to include the additional requirement that all opt-out Payers submit a vaccine access plan to bring transparency to your plans to assure that your beneficiaries will have access to vaccines that are part of their benefit plan design. More information on how to participate in AVAP and complete the necessary quarterly filings to continue vaccine supply for your beneficiaries is available at www.AKvaccine.org.

Sincerely,

Julia G. Walter, M.A., Esq.
Associate General Counsel & Deputy Executive Director of AK & WA



¹ 2017 is the final year in which Payers may opt out of the program. It will be mandatory for all Payers starting in 2018.