

# Provider Insider

Alabama Medicaid Bulletin

January 2025

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## 2025 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN CONTRACTS

Effective January 1, 2025, the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid) has contracts with 10 companies that offer Medicare Advantage coverage in Alabama: Aetna Better Health, Inc.; Aetna Life Insurance Company; Arcadian Health Plan, Inc. (A Humana company); Care Improvement Plus South Central Insurance Co. (A UnitedHealthcare company); Devoted Health Plan of Alabama, Inc.; HealthSpring Life & Health Insurance Company, Inc. (CIGNA); Humana Insurance Company; Simpra Advantage, Inc.; UnitedHealthcare of the Midlands, Inc.; and VIVA Health, Inc.

Providers are encouraged to check Medicaid’s Eligibility Verification File, under the Managed Care Section, to determine if capitation payments have been made for recipients during a particular month. In the event that a capitation payment has not been made, providers should refer to Chapter 5 of the Provider Billing Manual, Sections 5.6.1 - 5.6.2, for claims filing instructions.

If you have questions, please call Katrina Nunn at (334) 242-3764 or email [Katrina.Nunn@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:Katrina.Nunn@medicaid.alabama.gov).

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### Pass It On!

Everyone needs to know the latest about Medicaid. Be sure to route this to:

- Office Manager
- Billing Dept.
- Medical/Clinical Professionals
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

The information contained within is subject to change. Please review your Provider Manual and all Provider Alerts for the most up-to-date information.



## MANAGED CARE

### Primary Care Physician (PCP) Referrals Reminder

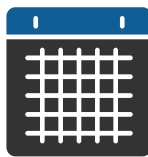
Medicaid no longer requires PCP referrals for services rendered for Medicaid recipients. However, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) referrals are required for EPSDT related services. Refer to Appendix A of the Provider Billing Manual for more information regarding EPSDT. Recipients that are in lock-in will be required to obtain a lock-in referral from their lock-in provider. To verify a recipient's lock-in status and provider, you may view the recipient's eligibility verification via the Alabama Medicaid Interactive Secure Web Portal.

### Reminder: Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN) PCP Group's 24/7 Voice-To-Voice Coverage

As per the ACHN PCP Group's 24/7 Voice-To-Voice Coverage agreement under the ACHN program, all ACHN Provider Groups are required to have after-hours coverage. It is important for patients to be able to contact their PCP Group to receive instructions regarding care at all times so that care is provided in the most appropriate manner relative to the patient's condition. Attachment A of the ACHN Program's PCP Enrollment Agreement and Chapter 40, Section 8.2 of the Provider Billing Manual state that the Group must provide recipients with after-hours instructions for care or referral at all times for medical conditions, twenty-four (24) hours per day, and seven (7) days per week as defined by ACHN Policy.

### Importance of Updating Provider Enrollment Files

It is important that all participating ACHN providers (group and individual) maintain their provider enrollment files with the Fiscal Agent. This includes, but is not limited to, provider specialties. Incorrect provider specialties may cause delays in providing ACHN care management services for Medicaid recipients.



## Attribution Report Timeline

The following table lists the time frame in which attribution reports will be available via the secure web portal for Fiscal Year 2025:

Attribution Period	Attribution Run Month	Attribution Reports Available
October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 (Quarter 1)	August 2024	First or second week of September 2024
January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025 (Quarter 2)	November 2024	First or second week of December 2024
April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025 (Quarter 3)	February 2025	First or second week of March 2025
July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 (Quarter 4)	May 2025	First or second week of June 2025

For additional information about attribution reports, you may access Chapter 40 of the Provider Billing Manual at the following link: [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.6\\_Manuals.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.6_Manuals.aspx)

## ACHN Bonus Payments

All PCP groups, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs), who actively participate with the ACHN may qualify to receive bonus payments. **The next quarterly bonus payments will be issued on the second checkwrite of January 2025.**





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## **ACHN Provider Profiler Reports**

Evaluation of quality and cost effectiveness will be necessary for a PCP group to manage their actual performance. It is important for the provider to review the quarterly Provider Profiler to visualize how the provider is performing throughout the year. The Provider Profiler provides the PCP with a mechanism to monitor areas that may need improvement in order to achieve quality and cost effectiveness for a higher bonus payment. The Provider Profiler will be released quarterly. More information about the Provider Profiler can be found by visiting [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov) >ACHN>ACHN Quality Measures. The next Provider Profiler Reports will be released in January 2025.

## **New Bonus Payment Opportunity for Maternity Care Providers (MCPs)**

Effective October 1, 2024, MCPs will have an opportunity to earn an additional maternity postpartum bonus payment worth a total of \$250. MCPs that see recipients between 7-21 days post-delivery or end of pregnancy may qualify to receive a \$125 postpartum bonus payment. MCPs that see recipients between 22-84 days post-delivery or end of pregnancy may qualify to receive an additional \$125 postpartum bonus payment. For more information and billing instructions, please refer to Chapter 24 of the Medicaid Provider Billing Manual.

# 1.800.QUITNOW

## QUITNOWALABAMA.COM

### 1-800-784-8669

#### *What is the Alabama Tobacco Quitline?*

The Alabama Tobacco Quitline is a free telephone (800-784-8669) and online coaching service ([www.quitnowalabama.com](http://www.quitnowalabama.com)) for any Alabamian who is ready to quit tobacco. The Quitline is open from 6 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

#### *What services are available?*

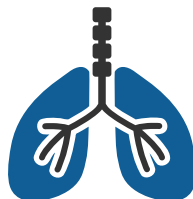
All Quitline services are **FREE** to Alabama residents including:

- Telephone and online coaching
- Printed support materials
- Electronic and fax referral program for healthcare providers
- Up to eight weeks of nicotine replacement therapy patches, if enrolled in coaching and medically eligible.

*Medicaid patients are not eligible for NRT through the Quitline and should get their cessation medications through Medicaid pharmacy services. Details are below.\**

#### *How can the Quitline help your patients?*

Healthcare providers are encouraged to refer patients directly to the Quitline by faxing a referral form to 1-800-692-9023 or completing the electronic referral form found at [www.quitnowalabama.com](http://www.quitnowalabama.com) under the for providers tab. The Quitline will contact the referred patient within 24 hours of receiving a





referral to enroll the patient into the Quitline coaching program.

***\*For Medicaid patients:***

Medicaid pays for any of the seven approved cessation medications\*\* for its patients if the following documentation is submitted: **both** the Medicaid Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Prior Authorization Request form **and** Quitline referral form. Both forms should be faxed to Acentra Health at 1-800-748-0116, **and** the Quitline referral form should be faxed to the Quitline at 1-800-692-9023. Plan First Recipients are not required to have a Prior Authorization form submitted.

\*\*Approved cessation medications include nicotine patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers, nasal spray, varenicline, and bupropion SR, according to Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence, U.S. Clinical Practice Guidelines, 2008.

***Quitline/Medicaid Pharmacy PA forms***

The Quitline fax referral forms, both English and Spanish versions, and the Medicaid Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Prior Authorization Request Form can be found at [www.quitnowalabama.com](http://www.quitnowalabama.com).

***Meaningful Use:***

Recording and providing cessation interventions are core clinical quality measures that can be used to demonstrate meaningful use.

***For more information about the Alabama Tobacco Quitline or to order Quitline materials for your office, call Tracie Cole at 334-206-6432 or email [Tracie.Cole@adph.state.al.us](mailto:Tracie.Cole@adph.state.al.us).***

## GAINWELL TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Provider Representatives may be reached by dialing 1-855-523-9170 and entering the appropriate seven-digit extension.



Emily Morrison  
Ext. 121067  
[emily.morrison@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:emily.morrison@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Amber Smith  
Ext. 121163  
[amber.smith@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:amber.smith@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Brittany Mann  
Ext. 121025  
[brittany.mann@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:brittany.mann@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Jacquelyn Thomas  
Ext. 121077  
[jacquelyn.dji.godfrey@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:jacquelyn.dji.godfrey@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Jessica Strickland  
Ext. 121019  
[jessica.strickland@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:jessica.strickland@gainwelltechnologies.com)



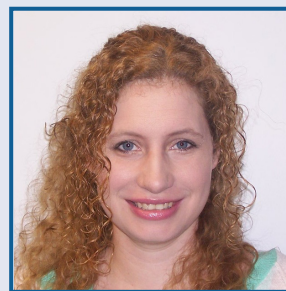
Krysta Cook  
Ext. 121058  
[krysta.mic.cook@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:krysta.mic.cook@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Emily Cook  
Ext. 121047  
[emily.cook@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:emily.cook@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Suzi Taylor  
Ext. 121110  
[suzanne.taylor@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:suzanne.taylor@gainwelltechnologies.com)



Lauryn Morgan  
Ext. 121048  
[lauryn.morgan@gainwelltechnologies.com](mailto:lauryn.morgan@gainwelltechnologies.com)

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The release of funds is normally the second Monday after the checkwrite (remittance advice) date.  
Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. As always, the release of direct deposit and checks depends on the availability of funds.

## CHECKWRITE SCHEDULE REMINDER:

- October 4, 2024
- October 18, 2024
- November 1, 2024
- November 15, 2024
- December 6, 2024
- December 13, 2024
- January 3, 2025
- January 17, 2025
- January 31, 2025
- February 7, 2025
- February 21, 2025
- March 7, 2025
- March 21, 2025
- April 4, 2025
- April 18, 2025
- May 2, 2025
- May 16, 2025
- May 23, 2025
- June 6, 2025
- June 20, 2025
- July 4, 2025
- July 18, 2025
- August 1, 2025
- August 15, 2025
- September 5, 2025
- September 12, 2025