



# ALABAMA MEDICAID PHARMACIST

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A Service of Alabama Medicaid

## Medicaid News

Alabama Medicaid's monthly enrollment topped 1 million for the first time in February 2014, boosted largely by the federally-required transfer of children from the state's All Kids program and changes in how Medicaid eligibility is determined. The milestone increase also reflects the first enrollment of individuals who applied for coverage through the federal "marketplace" under the Affordable Care Act.

In a review of data from the first five months of 2014, Alabama Medicaid's monthly enrollment increased from 997,545 in January to 1,000,824 in February. That number increased to 1,014,931 in March, 1,020,802 in April, and 1,024,358 in May.

Much of the initial increase—93 percent—was due to the addition of 23,653 children in January who were required to transfer to Medicaid from the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Affordable Care Act required that children in families with incomes under 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to transfer to Medicaid in January 2014.

Source: [Alabama Medicaid Agency Medicaid News](#)

Please fax all prior authorization and override requests *directly* to Health Information Designs at 800-748-0116. If you have questions, please call 800-748-0130 to speak with a call center representative.

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The HID Help Desk is open Monday–Friday from 8am to 7pm and on Saturdays 10am to 2pm. If you need a form, wish to review criteria, or have other questions, please access our website at [hidmedicaid.hidinc.com](http://hidmedicaid.hidinc.com) or the Agency website at [medicaid.alabama.gov](http://medicaid.alabama.gov).

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Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services  
PO Box 3210  
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## Tobacco Cessation Counseling for Pregnant Women

### Background

Beginning January 1, 2014, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will cover a new smoking cessation benefit for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women. Medicaid will reimburse for up to four face-to-face counseling sessions in a 12-month period. The reimbursement period will begin in the prenatal period and continue through the postpartum period (60 days after delivery or pregnancy end). Documentation must support each counseling session.

**Note:** Although this policy will be effective on January 1, 2014, system changes have not been made to allow claim payment. As soon as system changes are implemented, another ALERT will be sent out to providers.

**Don't forget:** Pharmacies must bill for these specific services through their DME NPI.



### Alabama Medicaid Policy

**Face-to-face counseling services must be provided:**

- By or under the supervision of a physician; or
- By another health care professional who is legally authorized to furnish such services under State law within their scope of practice and who is authorized to provide Medicaid covered services other than tobacco cessation services

**The following diagnosis codes must be billed on the claim (UB-04 or CMS-1500 claim form) in order to be reimbursed by Medicaid:**

- V220-V222 – Normal pregnancy
- V230-V233 – Supervision of high-risk
- V2341-V237 – Pregnancy with other poor obstetric history, or
- V242 – Routine postpartum follow-up

AND

- 3051 – Tobacco use disorder

**The following CPT Codes are applicable:**

- 99406 – Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than three minutes up to 10 minutes (\$8.60)
- 99407 – Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes (\$17.12)

## Changes to Patient 1st Program

### Background

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is making changes to the Patient 1st program on June 1, 2014 to more precisely track referrals and improve patient care management and provider payment accuracy. These changes will also allow Medicaid to track performance measures of a Primary Medical Provider (PMP) in a more efficient manner.

### Program Changes

1. The group NPI number will no longer be recognized for referrals. This means the referring provider number on the claim must be the NPI of the referring physician, not the NPI of the group. A group NPI number will cause the claim to deny.

#### Action Needed

Enrollment in the PMP program will ensure payment. Physicians not enrolled with Patient 1st are encouraged to complete the online application as soon as possible.

2. Physicians who are not enrolled as a Patient 1st provider will no longer be able to make referrals for or on behalf of an enrolled PMP and can only provide services if the patient was referred to them by a Patient 1st enrolled provider.
3. A self-referral will no longer be required for PMPs who see patients at different locations.

### Instructions for Individual Providers

The application is available on Medicaid's website at: [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov) under **Providers > Provider Enrollment > Forms for Provider Enrollment > under Administrative Forms > Patient 1st Provider Enrollment**. Questions concerning the application process should be directed to the Provider Enrollment Unit at: 1-888-223-3630.

### Instructions for Individual Providers in a Group

Individual providers within a PMP-enrolled group may update the Group/Clinic Patient 1st Update Form and fax it to Provider Enrollment at 334-215-4298. This form is located at the following link: [http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/5.0\\_Resources/5.4\\_Forms\\_Library/5.4.4.7\\_Patient\\_1st\\_Forms.aspx](http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/5.0_Resources/5.4_Forms_Library/5.4.4.7_Patient_1st_Forms.aspx). This will ensure a smooth enrollment of an individual PMP within a group.

For more information regarding these changes, please contact Latonda Cunningham via e-mail at [latonda.cunningham@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:latonda.cunningham@medicaid.alabama.gov).

## July 1 Pharmacy Changes

Effective July 1, 2014, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee recommendations as well as quarterly updates. **Effective July 1, 2014**, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will enforce the following changes:

1. **Require prior authorization for payment of the below-listed generics. The equivalent brand will be preferred with no PA.**

**Note:** Use Dispense as Written (DAW) Code of 9 for these brand-name products. DAW Code of 9 indicates the following: Substitution Allowed by Prescriber but Plan Requests Brand - Patient's Plan Requested Brand Product to be Dispensed.

Generic	Corresponding Brand
Lidocaine Topical Patch	Lidoderm
Dexmethylphenidate HCL	Focalin
Tropium Chloride	Sanctura
Diazepam Rectal Kit	Diastat Diatat Acudial
Modafinil	Provigil
Levalbuterol Inhalation Solution	Xopenex Inhalation Solution

2. **Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the quarterly updates.** The updates are listed below and continue on the next page.

PDL Additions	
<b>Azelastine HCL (generic Astelin)</b>	EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents
<b>Diastat</b>	Behavioral Health/Benzodiazepines
<b>Diastat Acudial</b>	Behavioral Health/Benzodiazepines
<b>Elidel</b>	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Miscellaneous
<b>Focalin</b>	Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants—Agents used for ADHD
<b>Lidoderm</b>	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antipruritics and
<b>Mentax</b>	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antifungals
<b>Provigil</b>	Behavioral Health/ Wakefulness Promoting Agents

## July 1 Pharmacy Changes

PDL Additions, continued	
<b>Sanctura</b>	Genitourinary Agents/Genitourinary Smooth Muscle Relaxants
<b>Sklice</b>	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Scabicides and Pediculicides
<b>Strattera</b>	Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants-Agents used for ADHD
<b>Ulesfia</b>	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Scabicides and Pediculicides
<b>Xopenex Inhalation Solution</b>	Respiratory/Selective Beta-2 Adrenergic Agonists
<b>Zovirax (cream only)</b>	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antivirals

PDL Deletions	
<b>Advair</b>	Respiratory/Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids
<b>Advair HFA</b>	Respiratory/Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids
<b>Astelin</b>	EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents
<b>Dexmethylphenidate HCL</b> (generic Focalin)	Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants-Agents used for ADHD
<b>Diazepam Rectal Kit</b> (generic Diastat; generic Diastat Acudial)	Behavioral Health/Benzodiazepines
<b>Levalbuterol Inhalation Solution</b> (generic Xopenex)	Respiratory/Selective Beta-2 Adrenergic Agonists
<b>Lidocaine Topical Patch</b> (generic Lidoderm)	Skin and Mucous Membrane/ Antipruritics and Local Anesthetics
<b>Modafinil</b> (generic Provigil)	Behavioral Health/Wakefulness Promoting Agents
<b>Trospium Chloride</b> (generic Sanctura)	Genitourinary Agents/ Genitourinary Smooth Muscle Relaxants
<b>Zovirax</b> (ointment only)	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antivirals

## July 1 Pharmacy Changes

For additional PDL and coverage information, visit our drug look-up site at <https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/ALPortal/NDC%20Look%20Up/tabId/39/Default.aspx>.



The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov) and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers requesting PAs by mail or fax should send requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)**  
**Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services**  
**P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210**  
**Fax: 1-800-748-0116**  
**Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

## APA State Pharmacy Tech of the Year

Heather Vega, a nationally-certified pharmacy technician with the Alabama Medicaid Agency, has been named state Pharmacy Technician of the Year by the Alabama Pharmacy Association. Given annually, the award recognizes APA member pharmacy technicians who demonstrate excellence in performance of their technician duties. The award was presented in June during the APA's annual meeting at Point Clear.

Mrs. Vega has worked with the Alabama Medicaid Agency since 2007 as an employee of Health Information Designs, an Alabama Medicaid contractor, to research and respond to inquiries from pharmacists, technicians, physicians, nurses and patients on pricing and coverage issues. She also assists in the coordination of clinical appeals for children so that their specific needs are met and necessary medications are received in a timely manner.

"I particularly enjoy responding to questions from providers and recipients and to help research and resolve problems," Mrs. Vega said. "I also enjoy the camaraderie and professionalism of my co-workers. I know I could not have won this award without their support and guidance."

Prior to her work with Medicaid, she worked six years with CVS Pharmacy in Montgomery during which time she attained national certification and was promoted to Lead Technician. While working at Medicaid, she began her studies at Auburn University Montgomery and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a concentration in Public Health and Microbiology.

Mrs. Vega lives in Montgomery with her husband Michael, and their daughter, Olivia.

