Dear Doctors and Staff of Alaska,

Warm wishes for the coming holiday season!

2023 was coined to be the year of CHANGE! We have spent the year updating our website and moving to a new Association Management Software (AMS) as well as adding Learning Management Software (LMS) for our doctors and staff to have access to training and CE courses. While it has been a big lift for us as a small staff, we are greatly pleased by the company CE21’s support and assistance in this transition. We are hoping that you as a user will find it more user friendly, and the LMS will give you added value as you navigate the future of our offices. Please let us know if you need assistance or would like to see other services provided to help you and your staff.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!!**

**ACS 2024 Convention** is in the planning stages for October 3, 4, 5 & 6th. There will be updates to the format for ease of registration and registration will have a bank of on-line credit options included to assist doctors who would like to do some on-line as well as in-person. We are hoping this will assist doctors and staff who would like to attend non-ce classes available at convention to get their complete credit requirements in addition to taking advantage of education that can assist your practice marketing, staffing, etc. for a more successful business.

**Insurance Issues**: Insurance issues continue to be a primary source of stress for our billing departments. Just when you think you have figured out how to get your claims paid, they come up with different modifiers, what services can be done on the same date and other such nefarious tactics to deny payment. **ACS has implemented a new MEMBER SERVICE on the front page of the website “Insurance and Billing Questions”. This is a service for our members to submit billing and insurance questions, along with an EOB or other documentation to receive assistance within 24-48 hours from certified billers and coders.** We have had a great deal of activity on this site and the questions & answers will be posted in our member only portal for you to review should you want to check it before submitting your issue. As always, we recommend you be sure to review any insurance contracts or changes, and if you have questions, seek legal advice from an insurance contract attorney before you complete the new contracts.

**80% Rule** – This year has seen a push by insurers through the Chamber of Commerce to have the Governor and the Division of Insurance eliminate the 80% Rule in Alaska. This rule was implemented many years ago to allow reimbursement to providers, even if they were not in-network, therefore ensuring that there was adequate access of care through a robust provider pool. Unfortunately, one insurance is working diligently to eliminate this rule, thereby giving them complete control of healthcare in our state. We all know this could lead to less providers (leaving state as they cannot do business on the reimbursements provided in the in-network fee schedule or NO reimbursement if you are not in-network) or a narrowed in-network pool that delays access to see a provider (already seeing this in many cases with no appointments available for weeks or months). ACS has joined forces with the Alaska State Medical Association, Primary Care Association, Alaska Physical Therapy Association, Alaska Medical Group Management Association, and others, as the **Coalition for Reliable Medical Access** to fight this change. Please read the updates as I send them and take a moment to visit their website and read about this process, what it means to you, and how YOU can help us in this battle.

<https://www.reliablemedicalaccess.org/#:~:text=The%20Coalition%20for%20Reliable%20Medical%20Access%20is%20a%20nonprofit%20with,adequate%20and%20timely%20data%2C%20and>

Your ACS Board and staff remain vigilant in addressing the day-to-day issues. We continue to work with our ACS legislative committee on new legislation to benefit your profession and dealing with insurance issues through the Insurance Task Force.

**Nationally:** On a national level we continue to communicate with Senators Sullivan and Murkowski on Veteran issues and care and moving a new Tri-Care bill forward to cover dependent benefits which currently do not exist. We are also working on the necessary changes that need to be made in CMS to allow us to be paid for services we provide Seniors.

**If you are currently a member, we thank you for helping us to maintain vigilance in uncertain times. We hope that you have found value in your membership and that you feel we are responsive to your concerns.**

**If you are not a member, we encourage you to join today. Beyond the ability to access us easily for information you might need, your membership continues to bring you valuable benefits:**

* **Legislative Support**
* **Instant Access to ACS Staff for Information**
* **Discounts for Convention**
* **Outstanding education for your practice**
* **Complimentary Credits**
* **Website Member Only Resources**
* **FREE Online Classified Advertising**
* **Affinity Programs**

**In addition, if you become an Enhanced Member, you receive**

* **Complimentary ChiroCode Desk Book each year**
* **Complimentary Basic Convention for you AND one staff**
* **Membership recognition gift**
* **Additional discounts on Special Events for you and your staff**
* **And more!**

Your membership is more than being a part of a group. Membership not only funds the staff to keep our profession current in the state, but it brings you peace of mind that someone is constantly watching out for your profession in the areas of legislation, changes to regulations, insurance issues in all areas, business changes, HIPAA requirements and more. Every year we face new challenges, but we cannot do it without your help as a provider and a member. Thank you for all you do for our communities to make them healthier.

Look for regular updates to the exciting changes to our state and here is to a successful, healthy, and happy 2023!

Best regards,

Debbie Ryan

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