

State of Alaska
RETIREE HEALTH PLAN ADVISORY BOARD
Related to Removing the Member Cost Share for Colonoscopies Received In-Network
under the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan

Resolution 2025-04

WHEREAS, the Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board (Board) is authorized by Administrative Order No. 336 to facilitate engagement and coordination between the State of Alaska's retirement systems' members, the Alaska Retirement Management Board, and the Commissioner of Administration regarding the administration of the retiree health plan; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska retiree health care trusts provide health coverage through the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan (Plan) to retirees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, a colonoscopy is a covered service under the Plan, which is generally provided to members for either screening or diagnostic purposes; and

WHEREAS, a screening colonoscopy is a procedure furnished to a person without signs or symptoms of gastrointestinal conditions, no family or personal history of colorectal cancer, and no previous polyps or other irregularities in the large intestine, for the purpose of early detection of colon cancer; and

WHEREAS, a diagnostic colonoscopy is a procedure furnished to a person to investigate due to signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer, a prior positive colorectal cancer screening (such as Cologuard at home testing), or a personal history of polyps, abnormal tissue, or gastrointestinal conditions or symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the Plan currently provides members with coverage for screening colonoscopies in accordance with the preventive care provisions, which allows for coverage at 100% of the recognized charge when received in-network, or when precertification is obtained when a network provider is not available; and

WHEREAS, the Plan currently provides members with coverage for diagnostic colonoscopies in accordance with the medical plan's general benefit provisions, which allow for coverage at 80 percent of the recognized charge, with a retiree coinsurance of 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Division's contracted third-party vendor has developed and is committed to appropriately maintaining medical clinical policy bulletins to document medical necessity standards to administer benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Division may contract with a different third-party vendor in the future to provide similar services; and

WHEREAS, the Division has proposed to consider adding to the Plan the option to obtain medically necessary diagnostic colonoscopy services without a member coinsurance when the service is received in-network, as outlined in detail in the Program Proposal presented to the Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board on October 28, 2025 (Program Proposal); and

WHEREAS, for non-Medicare members medical services provided as part of an ongoing written plan of care, when administered by an eligible health care provider practicing within the scope of their license, are included benefits, and

WHEREAS, for Medicare-eligible members all medical services covered by Medicare will be first considered by Medicare, then by AlaskaCare's standard medical coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Division has solicited public comments on the Program Proposal to consider removing the member cost share for diagnostic colonoscopies when received in-network, which resulted in 100% of public comments in favor of implementation of the Program Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Program Proposal has been evaluated by an independent certified Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, who found that the proposed change would result in enhancements to the Plan that are favorable for members and would have an actuarial value increase of 0.01 to 0.02 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Program Proposal has been evaluated by an independent certified Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, who found that the proposed change is anticipated to result in approximately \$100,000 to \$155,000 in additional annual costs to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Division's analysis has included: evaluation of the need and rationale for the proposed change, data analysis based on actual experience, evaluation of the impact of the changes to the current benefits; evaluation of any gaps, restrictions, reductions, eliminations, expansions, or additions to the current benefits; the number of members potentially impacted by changes and the seriousness of any impacts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RETIREE HEALTH PLAN ADVISORY BOARD recommends the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan adopt and implement the removal of the member coinsurance for colonoscopies when received in-network under the Plan's benefits, as outlined in the Program Proposal submitted to the Board on October 28, 2025, to be effective January 1, 2026.

DATED this 28 day of October 2025.