

Medical Policy Updates

For criteria related to a medical decision, call Care Management at 800-722-4714, option 3. Medical policies are available at premera.com/ak/provider under Quick Links, Medical Policies.

**New policy effective for dates of service
Dec. 30, 2014 and later:**

2.04.513 Urine Drug Testing in Pain Management and Substance Abuse Treatment Settings

New policy. Beginning Dec. 30, 2014, the plan will adopt guidelines related to medical necessity and coverage of urine drug screening in the outpatient setting. Urine drug testing is an important aspect of managing patients using controlled substances for pain or in treatment programs for substance abuse. Both qualitative and quantitative drug testing may be considered medically necessary.

Quantitative drug testing will only be covered when specified criteria are met and will be reimbursed up to six drugs per test, per member in the outpatient setting. Please review policy 2.04.513 Urine Drug Testing in Pain Management and Substance Abuse Treatment Settings on the provider website for full details.

Premera medical policies are guidelines used to evaluate the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. We adopt policies after careful review of published, peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines, and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, we reserve the right to review and update our policies as appropriate.

When there are differences between the member's contract and medical policy, the member's contract prevails. The existence of a medical policy regarding a specific service or treatment does not guarantee that the member's contract covers that service.

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