

ORDER R99-04

Minimum Benefit Limits for Coverage for Treatment of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

AS 21.42.365 requires health care insurers that offer, issue for delivery, deliver, or renew a health care insurance plan in this state to provide coverage for treatment of alcohol or drug abuse, subject to minimum benefit amounts specified in AS 21.42.365(a). This statute applies to policies and group subscriber contracts entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 1989.

Under AS 21.42.365 (b), the director is required to adjust the minimum benefit amounts specified in AS 21.42.365(a) to correspond to changes in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers in the Anchorage Metropolitan Area compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. I have determined that this medical care component has increased by 18.2 percent and, therefore, warrants an increase of the minimum benefit amounts in AS 21.42.365(a).

The Director Hereby Orders:

Effective January 1, 1999, the minimum benefit under AS 21.42.365 for coverage for treatment of alcohol or drug abuse is \$11,350 over two consecutive benefit years and \$22,700 lifetime benefits. These minimum benefits apply to a policy with a benefit year beginning during the calendar years 1999, 2000, and 2001.

DATED: May 5, 1999

Marianne K. Burke
Director of Insurance