

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

State of ALASKA

Attachment 3.1-C

STANDARDS AND METHODS OF ASSURING HIGH QUALITY CARE

The following is a description of the methods that will be used to assure that the medical and remedial care and services are of high quality, and a description of the standards established by the State to assure high quality care:

The State plan for medical assistance provides that the entire range of medical services which are included in the plan will be available as determined necessary by qualified physicians and other practitioners. All of the medical services included in the plan will be provided without delay attributable to administrative processes required under the plan. Medical services of high level of quality will not be affected by administrative procedures or requirements. The decision to provide medical care will always be made by a qualified physician or other practitioner. To the greatest extent possible, the physician and other practitioners will take into account the social situation of the individual. Such supervision of professional services rendered as may be required will be provided by professional persons in the field.

The State plan for medical assistance includes reasonable and definite standards for determining that the medical services furnished were necessary and were supplied in an amount and variety consistent with accepted norms of professional practice. The administration of these standards will be handled on a continuing basis at the State office level.

To the greatest extent possible the administrative mechanisms required in this plan to insure prompt receipt of medical assistance will be kept simple and clearly defined and in the best interests of the recipient. To this end realistic schedules of compensation for all medical services included in the State plan will be maintained and updated within the limits of available appropriations. Routine prior authorizations of medical care and services will be kept at a minimum. In order that applicants, recipients, the general public, and the various vendors of medical services involved be kept informed as fully as possible regarding the content of the medical care available and the circumstances under which it is provided, an ongoing information program, including the use of pamphlets and brochures, will be developed.