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ISSUE 1 - 2025

## **Proven Health Care Cost Reduction Through Strength in Numbers**

# MAT-SU COALITION HEALTH CENTER: Your Trusted Provider for Quality Healthcare in the Mat-Su Valley



he Mat-Su Coalition Health Center is dedicated to serving the Pacific Health Coalition members in the Mat-Su community with high-quality, comprehensive primary and acute care. Since opening its doors in July 2022, they have been committed to ensuring that members have access to the care they need – when they need it. Whether you're due for a routine check-up, require treatment for an illness, or need ongoing management for chronic conditions, their experienced and compassionate providers are here to support your health journey.

### Meet the Mat-Su CHC Providers

#### **Rob Rosentreter, NP**

With over 17 years of medical experience, Rob Rosentreter, NP is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner (AANP) with a background in paramedicine, emergency care, and family medicine. Before becoming a FNP, he spent nine years as a paramedic and six years as a registered nurse. Rob is dedicated to patient education, collaboration, and evidence-based care to help manage both acute and chronic conditions. He enjoys hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing with his wife and their two Labrador retrievers, Koda and Max.

#### Michael Michaud, PA-C

With over a decade of experience, Michael Michaud, PA-C, specializes in primary care, urgent care, and emergency medicine. His background includes working in community health clinics, rural medicine, and fast-track emergency care, treating patients of all ages. Michael has provided care at the Alaska Native Medical Center, Mat-Su Regional Urgent Care, and various Indian Health Service facilities. His expertise includes suturing, orthopedic procedures, and joint injections. Michael is passionate about accessible, patient-centered healthcare.

### **Services Offered**

• Primary & Preventive Care – Wellness exams, chronic disease management, and routine check-ups.

- Acute & Urgent Care Treatment for minor injuries, infections, flu, and more.
- Walk-in Appointments Get seen when you need care, without long wait times.
- Convenient Location Easy access for Mat-Su Valley residents.

### Location & Contact Information

1700 E. Bogard Rd, Bldg. A, Suite 103, Wasilla

907.206.4601

coalitionhealthcenter.com

## **Clinic Hours**

Appointments: Monday–Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Walk-ins: Monday–Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 907.206.4601 or visit <u>coalitionhealthcenter.com</u>. Your well-being is the Mat-Su CHC's priority, and they are proud to be a healthcare resource for the members in Anchorage, Mat-Su and Fairbanks.

# PBMS AS A SOLUTION FOR MANAGING HEALTHCARE COSTS

by Josh Bindle, National CooperativeRx Chief Executive Officer



Insurance companies began including prescription drugs as part of health plans in the 1960s. Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) were established to support insurers by negotiating with drug manufacturers and pharmacies. Over time, PBMs have played a crucial role in controlling drug costs, managing patient access to medications, and determining pharmacy reimbursements.

PBMs function as intermediaries between payers, pharmacies, and drug manufacturers. They negotiate drug prices, create and maintain lists of preferred medications (formularies), build pharmacy networks, and handle claims processing (paying for prescriptions under a benefit plan). Additionally, PBMs provide ongoing management of pharmacy benefits, tracking plan performance to help control drug costs for both plans and participants.

The pricing negotiations, formularies, and networks managed by PBMs are essential in shaping prescription drug access and costs. Understanding these factors can help stakeholders better manage their pharmacy benefits and educate employees effectively.

Since its inception, the PBM industry has experienced significant consolidation. Today, the three largest PBMs control around 80% of the market. This concentration can leave plan sponsors feeling overshadowed, with many experiencing unfavorable pricing terms and service limitations.

## The National CooperativeRx Difference

Recognizing the need for more transparency in pricing and PBM oversight, the Pacific Health Coalition (PHC) partnered with National CooperativeRx in 2007. National CooperativeRx provides the PHC member groups with access to high-quality, costeffective prescription drugs and services. By leveraging the collective size of the PHC and National CooperativeRx's nationwide network, members secure better discounts, rebates, and contract terms than they could achieve on their own.

National CooperativeRx operates as a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, ensuring that its goals are aligned with the interests of its members. This structure also offers transparency, giving members access to claims data.

With a team of experienced staff, National CooperativeRx provides thorough oversight, including on-site pharmacists and account managers who review processes to ensure better control over pharmacy expenditures, verify the fulfillment of discounts and rebate guarantees, and optimize plan designs for maximum value.

As state and federal efforts to reform PBM practices continue, it's essential for plans to recognize the benefits PBMs offer and understand how the PHC has addressed the challenges commonly associated with PBM relationships by partnering with National CooperativeRx.

# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Anchorage School District Committed to Quality, Affordable Health Care

The Pacific Health Coalition is pleased to welcome one of its newest members, the Anchorage School District (ASD). The ASD's health plan covers about 3,300 enrolled participants, half of whom are district employees serving a variety of different roles from nutrition staff and classroom paraprofessionals to directors and principals.

The plan's fiscal needs vary from year to year with factors such as utilization and renewal costs contributing to overall plan expense. Thai Walty, Senior Director of the Benefits Department, explained that these costs have increased over the years. "The ASD works in partnership with benefits consultants as well as union representatives to continually monitor the plan and ensure we meet the commitments set forth," said Walty. She explained that although participants in the health plan represent a rather diverse group, most prioritize affordability and accessibility. This made the PHC membership ideal for the district.

The ASD joined the Coalition because of positive feedback from task force members who represent participating unions. They were also impressed with the PHC's offerings, including the Anchorage Coalition Health Center (CHC) and the Coalition Health Fairs. The CHC gives their employees a convenient, high-quality option for affordable health services. The Center's convenient hours and capacity for walk-in appointments provide participants with more flexibility when they need care.

Walty described the benefits of the Coalition Health Fairs after recently visiting one. She praised the onsite medical services and informational tables. "Getting participants engaged with their health can sometimes be challenging and seeing so many attendees gathering in the same place to learn more about health was amazing to witness," said Walty.

"We look forward to continuing to explore the products and services available and how we can leverage them to deliver a great health plan to our employees and families," added Walty.



# CALENDAR

PHC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

June 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m.,

Anchorage, Alaska

August 20, 2025, 1:30 p.m.,

Seattle Washington

#### November 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m.,

#### Anchorage, Alaska

Business meetings are held in person and by videoconference through Microsoft Teams. Invitations and meeting materials will be distributed via email before the meeting date, including instructions about how to attend virtually. If you have questions about how to attend by videoconference, contact the PHC at info@phcoalition.org or 702.460.4134.

#### INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLANS (IFEBP) -71ST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONFERENCE

#### November 9-12, 2025

Honolulu, Hawaii 🛛

# The Pacific Health Coalition Cost Savings: Fast Facts

- Coalition Health Centers in Alaska saw over 21,000 patients during the first ten months of 2024. Look for new locations in Spokane and the Tri-Cities, Washington, opening in 2025!
- Participating plans in the Delta Dental PPO contract saved nearly \$9 million in 2024, its first year of implementation.
- Through the Renalogic Dialysis Cost Containment program, participating plans achieved approximately \$13.6 million in net savings through the Usual and Reasonable pricing component

during the period January – October 2024. Overall, Coalition total net savings from 2014 – October 2024 is approximately \$124 million.

- Through the Alaska Regional Hospital PPO contract, participating plans saved approximately \$39.4 million for the period January – June 2024 representing a discount of approximately 71% off billed retail charges.
- The Aetna Nationwide Provider Network contract saved participating plans approximately \$37 million for

the period January–September 2024 representing an 18% increase in savings from the same period in 2023.

• Participating plans saved approximately \$4 million in surgical savings for the period January – September 2024 through the Transcarent Surgery Benefit program. Expanded services for virtual physical therapy and cancer care are available through the PHC Transcarent contract.

Please contact us for more information at <u>info@phcoalition.org</u> or call 702.460.4134.



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READ ABOUT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, P. 3.

Since 1994, the Pacific Health Coalition (aka HCCMCA) has been helping member health plans control health care costs by negotiating better pricing on health benefits and services than these same plans could achieve on their own. Currently, there are more than 50 health plans participating throughout the United States.

# The Pacific Health Coalition Programs



The services offered by the Pacific Health Coalition to its member plans are selected, negotiated and designed to achieve the best price and value for labor. For more information on these services, click on the links below, contact info@phcoalition.org or call (702) 460-4134.

- Annual Health Fairs
- Coalition Health Centers
- Dental Care (Delta Dental)
- <u>Dialysis Cost Containment</u> (Renalogic)
- <u>Disease Management</u> (Optum)
- Joint Claims Administration (Aetna)

- Oncology Care (Transcarent)
- <u>Pharmacy Benefits Management</u> (National Cooperative Rx/CVS Caremark)
- <u>PPO Contracts</u>
  - Alaska Regional Hospital
  - Geneva Woods Birthing Center
  - Inpatient and Outpatient Services

- <u>PPO Contracts (cont'd)</u>
  - <u>Aetna Nationwide</u>
    <u>Provider Network</u>
- Orthopedic PPO
- <u>Surgery Benefit Program</u> (Transcarent)
- Virtual Physical Therapy (Transcarent)
- <u>Vision Care</u> (VSP)