



# Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

907.729.7510 907.729.7506 • 4000 Ambassador Drive (ANHB Office) • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • [www.anhb.org](http://www.anhb.org)

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF  
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA  
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA  
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN  
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN  
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD  
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE  
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE  
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND  
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL  
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM  
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

February 24, 2023

Courtney O'Byrne King  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator  
Alaska Department of Health  
3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Disaster Relief Medicaid State Plan Amendment on Pharmacy Counseling Signature Waiver

Dear Ms. King,

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)<sup>1</sup> writes to provide Tribal Consultation comment on the State of Alaska Disaster Relief Medicaid State Plan Amendment (DR SPA) on the Pharmacy Counseling Signature Waiver. The Alaska Tribal Health System is supportive of this DR SPA and have appreciated the State's support on this matter during the length of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

The ability to waive the pharmacy counseling signature requirement has benefited our beneficiaries by increasing timeliness for patients and allowed for more appropriate delivery of pharmaceutical care. In addition to the adoption of this DR SPA for the purposes of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, we would recommend that the State permanently adopt this flexibility to waive pharmacy signature requirements, if allowable by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We offer our support for permanent adoption of this flexibility and stand ready to work with the State to achieve this.

We thank the State for engaging in Tribal Consultation on this DR SPA on the Pharmacy Counseling Signature Waiver. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, you may contact ANHB at [anhb@anhb.org](mailto:anhb@anhb.org) or via telephone at (907) 729-7510.

Sincerely,

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman  
Alaska Native Health Board  
Tribally-Elected Leader of the Valdez Native Tribe

<sup>1</sup> ANHB was established in 1968 with the purpose of promoting the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues and is the advocacy organization for the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), which is comprised of tribal health programs that serve all of the 229 Tribes and 180,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people throughout the state. As the statewide tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB helps Alaska's Tribes and Tribal programs achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.