



# Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Emily Beaulieu, State Plan Amendment Coordinator  
Alaska Department of Health, Office of the Commissioner  
3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
*via email:* [emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov](mailto:emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov)

RE: Proposed State Plan Amendment – Advanced Practice Dental Hygienist

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)<sup>1</sup> writes in support of the proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment and the Alternative Benefit Plan Amendment to add advanced practice dental hygienists to the list of covered providers.

The addition of advanced practice dental hygienists will support further access to care for beneficiaries and allow dentists to focus on treatment of higher acuity patients. While we are supportive of the addition of this provider type, we also wish to ensure that other similarly placed provider types are held equal in the services they are eligible to bill and be paid for providing. Therefore, we request that if there are any additional services for which an advanced practice dental hygienist is eligible to bill and be paid, that Dental Health Aide Therapists are also eligible to bill and be paid for rendering those services.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments during this Tribal consultation. Should you have any comments or questions regarding our recommendations, you may contact ANHB by email at [anhb@anhb.org](mailto:anhb@anhb.org) or by 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.

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 EKLUKNA

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