

Department of Health

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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

April 26, 2024

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

On behalf of the Department of Health (the department) and in keeping with the responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The proposed amendment intends to adjust the reimbursement amount for in-state tribal and non-tribal professional pharmacy dispensing fees, effective upon finalization of the forthcoming, associated regulation effective date.

These proposed dispensing fees are anticipated to be temporary, providing the department time to enact regulations with updated dispensing fees determined by an ongoing pharmacy dispensing costs survey.

The proposed dispensing fees, to be reimbursed no more than once every 22 days per individual medication strength, are as follows:

1. non-tribal pharmacies located on the road system: \$15.03
2. non-tribal pharmacies not located on the road system: \$26.94
3. tribal pharmacies: \$28.21

Additionally, proposed changes include 1) the addition of the "tribal pharmacy" definition; 2) clarification that the mediset dispensing fee is reimbursed no more than once every 14 days per individual medication strength.

Anticipated impact on Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries:

The proposed SPA does not impact Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries.

Anticipated impact on tribal health programs and the Indian Health Service:

The proposed SPA will positively impact tribal health programs as it ensures there is not a decrease of the reimbursement rates after the end of the COVID-19 PHE enhanced rates.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than the close of business, May 27, 2024. If seeking an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15 days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to

Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov.

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter are considered for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not considered comments for consultation on the SPA. **You must do so separately if you wish to provide comments for consideration in both the SPA and the regulations processes.** To locate the regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska web page at the "[Public Notices](#)" link.*

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator