



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage

3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923
Main: 907.269.7800
Fax: 907.269.0060

Juneau

350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

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Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

The Department of Health (the department) wishes to express gratitude for the time and attention tribal health organizations spent reviewing the proposed state plan amendment (SPA) to implement interim pharmacy dispensing fee rates and providing thoughtful comments for consideration. The following information represents a record of tribal comments (verbatim where included) and includes department responses to comments received from Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).

Tribal Comments –

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) writes in support of the Department of Health (DOH) proposal to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) for an interim pharmacy dispensing fee with an effective date of May 12, 2024.

ANTHC is a statewide tribal health organization serving all 229 tribes and all Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) people in Alaska. ANTHC provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health, and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation operate programs at the Alaska Native Medical Center, the statewide tertiary care hospital for all AN/AI people in Alaska, under the terms of Public Law 105-83.

We understand that DOH's intention is to create a seamless transition from the end of the temporary Public Health Emergency increase to the base pharmacy dispensing fee, which expired May 11, 2024.

ANTHC supports this intent and appreciates the ongoing collaboration with DOH to resolve the pharmacy dispensing fee issue. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the proposed SPA, ANTHC also supports DOH's request to conduct tribal consultation concurrently with the approval process.

Department Response – The department is also appreciative of the ongoing collaboration to implement an interim rate after the end of the temporary COVID-19 Public Health Emergency rates until new, permanent rates are established. The department is thankful of the support to submit the state plan amendment to CMS for approval during the tribal consultation period.