



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Director's Office

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January 6, 2017

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS, the Department), in keeping with the DHSS responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA).

The Department intends to submit a SPA concerning the delivery of personal care services. The proposed SPA includes descriptions of the two existing Personal Care Agency (PCA) models for the provision of PCA services, and proposes the removal of language restricting the performance of Functional Assessments to a consumer's home.

Agency Based Personal Care Assistance (ABPCA)

In the Agency Based Personal Care Assistance (ABPCA) model, a beneficiary may choose a personal care assistant employed by the agency-based program, which provides services that, oversees, manages, and supervises the beneficiary's care. In the ABPCA model the agency hires, trains, schedules, develops a backup plan if the regularly scheduled PCA is unavailable, and dispatches PCAs.

Consumer Directed Personal Care Assistance (CDPCA)

In the Consumer Directed Personal Care Assistance (CDPCA) model, the agency provides administrative support to a beneficiary, who manages his or her own care by hiring, firing, training (except for some basic training provided by the agency), and supervising his or her own PCA. The CDPCA administers payroll and Medicaid billing support, is required to conduct semiannual recipient home visits to review needs, and must develop a backup plan with the recipient or a legal representative.

Functional Assessments

The proposed SPA will remove the requirement for the performance of functional assessments in the consumer's residence. This change will add flexibility to the assessment process and, using telehealth, contribute to a reduction of time between application and assessment or reapplication and reassessment for personal care services. Applicants and consumers will continue to have the right to request an in-person assessment.

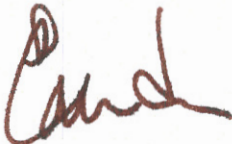
The removal of the requirement for functional assessments to occur in the client's home may result in a positive impact on IHS or tribal health providers' ability to gain personal care services for consumers. Additionally, the proposed change may directly impact IHS recipients utilizing

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personal care services through Alaska Medicaid by reducing the amount of time between a request for services and the functional assessment.

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments are due on February 6, 2017 by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting or discussion regarding the amendments, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date on this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Blvd, Building L, Anchorage, AK 99503 or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Courtney O'Byrne King', written in a cursive style.

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator

cc: Jon Sherwood – Deputy Commissioner, DHSS
Karen Forrest – Deputy Commissioner, DHSS
Margaret Brodie – Director, Division of Health Care Services
Renee Gayhart – Tribal Health Program Manager