



June 27, 2019

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (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.

**Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:**

The department intends, through a proposed future state plan amendment and in compliance with state law, to develop and implement a program facilitating supplemental reimbursement to governmental providers of eligible emergency medical transportation services to medical assistance recipients. This program, called a supplemental emergency medical transportation or SEMT program, aims to give providers the opportunity to capture additional federal reimbursement for emergency medical transportation services.

Provider requirements will follow federal guidelines and include that the provider:

- must be enrolled as an Alaska Medicaid provider of emergency medical transportation services;
- must voluntarily agree to participate in the supplemental reimbursement program;
- must be owned or operated by the state, a political subdivision of the state, or a federally recognized tribe or tribal organization;
- is reimbursed on a fee-for-service or other federally permissible basis; and
- must certify that the emergency medical transportation services qualify for Federal Financial Participation.

Parameters guiding the amount of supplemental reimbursement include, but are not restricted to the following:

- the amount of total reimbursement the provider receives in supplemental reimbursement may not exceed, when combined with all reimbursement from any other sources, the actual cost of providing the service; and
- the amount of federal supplemental reimbursement received by the provider must be equal to the amount of non-federal matching funds tendered by the emergency medical transportation service entity to the department, less an allowable established administrative fee.

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

The changes proposed in this amendment will not directly affect Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries.

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

The changes proposed in this amendment will offer tribal health programs (as governmental entities) the opportunity to explore whether the SEMT program is a viable source of additional reimbursement for services rendered to Medicaid eligible beneficiaries.

**Mechanism and timeline for comment**

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due on July 26, 2019, by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange 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 Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Boulevard, Building L. Anchorage, AK 99503, or [courtney.king@alaska.gov](mailto:courtney.king@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

Courtney O'Byrne King  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator