



July 1, 2019

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

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 to implement two changes through a proposed future state plan amendment

1. The removal of enhanced adult dental benefits – non-emergency dental benefits – from the list of approved optional services in the Alaska Medicaid state plan, and
2. A technical adjustment to the state plan addressing the location of denture services to reflect correctly its coverage under the prosthetics and orthotics benefit per CMS guidance.

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

The department does not believe the removal of the enhanced adult dental benefit will directly affect Alaska Native/American Indian Medicaid eligible beneficiaries because these services will continue to be rendered through the tribal health system.

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

The proposed change will have a direct impact on the operation of tribal health and Indian Health Service programs as the Alaska medical assistance program currently reimburses for the enhanced adult dental services benefit and the deletion of this optional service will create a corresponding reduction in revenue.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due on July 31, 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.

Sincerely,

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator