



Anchorage

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

Juneau

P.O. Box 110601
350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

May 26, 2020

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 the opportunity to consult on a Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and ongoing guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the state has submitted a disaster relief state plan amendment (DR SPA), which requests the following state plan flexibilities effective March 1, 2020, through the end of the PHE.

- Allow licensed practitioners operating within their scope of practice to order laboratory and radiology services.
- Allow coverage of laboratory services provided outside an office, or similar facility other than a hospital outpatient department or clinic, when meeting the state's provider qualifications.
- Allow reimbursement of laboratory services ordered by licensed practitioners operating within their scope of practice.
- Allow licensed practitioners operating within their scope of practice to order home health services.

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

The state anticipates that the relief sought via the DR SPA will increase access to COVID-19 testing for Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries.

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

The state anticipates that the relief requested in the DR SPA will benefit tribal health and IHS provider agencies as it offers additional flexibilities in the ordering of testing and location of testing.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the amendment are due on June 5, 2020, by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please make a written request

within 3-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid Program Specialist IV