



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and
Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage
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August 18, 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 a proposed Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department proposes to submit a SPA intended to make permanent the temporary authority – sought and received in the context of the public health emergency – that increases the number and types of providers able to order laboratory and radiology services under Alaska Medicaid. Specifically, the department proposes a revision in the laboratory and radiology benefit section of the state plan to add “licensed practitioners operating within their scope of practice” to (the existing) physicians as eligible to order laboratory and radiology services in the Medicaid program.

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

The state anticipates that the proposed revision will maintain increased access to laboratory and radiology services for Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries.

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

The state anticipates that continuing the authority for other licensed practitioners to order laboratory and radiology services will help to ensure a reduced physician workload and ongoing beneficiary access to services.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than September 18, 2020, by 5:00 PM. If seeking an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request no later than 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,

/s/

Courtney O’Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator