



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

Department of Health and Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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January 25, 2021

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 (SPA).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

Section 1006(b) of the SUPPORT Act, signed into law on October 24, 2018, amends 1902(a)(10)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act) to require state Medicaid plans to include coverage of Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorders (MAT-OUD) for all eligible beneficiaries. Further, Section 1006(b) adds a new paragraph 1905(a)(29) to the Act, establishing MAT-OUD as a mandatory benefit for five years – beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2025.

In line with CMS mandates, the department intends to amend the Medicaid State Plan and the Alternative Benefit Plan to include the new mandatory (limited-time) MAT-OUD benefit separate from the existing Medication-Assisted Treatment voluntary benefit. As Alaska already covers this benefit, the department does not anticipate a significant change to either the benefit or reimbursement sections but must create it as a standalone service in both benefit documents.

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

The department does not anticipate a significant impact to eligible Alaska Native and American Indian beneficiaries because the service exists in the current Medicaid State Plan and Alternative Benefit Plan.

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

The department does not anticipate a significant impact on tribal health programs or the Indian Health Service because the service exists in the current Medicaid State Plan and Alternative Benefit Plan.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than close of business, February 24, 2021. If seeking 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, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator