



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage

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

Juneau

350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

February 10, 2023

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 disaster relief Medicaid state plan amendment.

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

At the direction of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the department submitted a disaster relief state plan amendment (dSPA) documenting its waiver of the requirement that pharmacies collect a beneficiary signature reflecting the acceptance or refusal of pharmacist counseling during the public health emergency period.

In keeping with the increased flexibility of dSPAs, the state notifies tribal health organizations of the opportunity for consultation on the amendment upon submitting the amendment to CMS.

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

As the dSPA intends to enshrine a flexibility implemented and [noticed to providers on April 1, 2020](#), Medicaid-eligible tribal beneficiaries will not experience a direct impact with CMS approval of the submission.

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

As the dSPA intends to enshrine a flexibility implemented and [noticed to providers on April 1, 2020](#), providers will not experience a direct impact with CMS approval of the submission.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than February 24, 2023, by 5:00 PM. If seeking an in-person meeting to discuss 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