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Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

The Department of Health (the department) appreciates the comments submitted for the proposed state plan amendment (SPA) adding language to describe the current process for implementing updated inpatient and outpatient hospital per diem rates published by Indian Health Services (IHS) in the Federal Register (FR). The following information represents a record of tribal comments received from the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) (verbatim where included) and includes department responses.

[Tribal Comment #1 –](#)

The Alaska Tribal Health System is supportive of this SPA and appreciates the State's efforts to provide additional clarity to the department's process of updating payments and the effective date when the IHS makes updates to the FR and ensuring Tribes and the Tribal Health Organizations (T/THOs) are reimbursed at the most current rate.

[Department Response](#) – The department is appreciative of the support and collaboration to clarify the process in the Medicaid state plan.

[Tribal Comment #2 –](#)

ANHB supports this proposed amendment to add language in section 4.19-C. Reimbursing providers the difference between new and old rates retrospectively if the rates are published after the IHS effective date and the new rate is higher than the previous rate will ensure T/THOs are reimbursed at the most equitable rate for the services provided. Implementing the rate prospectively when a new published rates is below the previous rate supports T/THOs and avoids unpredictable financial consequences.

[Department Response](#) – Refer to department response to Tribal Comment #1.