



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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January 30, 2025

Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

On behalf of the Department of Health (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 intends to submit a SPA to align with the 2024 federal regulation update that exempts clinic services provided by tribal health providers from the four-walls requirement ([42 C.F.R. § 440.90\(c\)](#)). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires states that cover clinic services to submit a SPA to confirm their coverage of Indian Health Service (IHS)/Tribal clinic services under this exception. This SPA will fulfill that requirement.

This proposed SPA will also include the exception of behavioral health clinic services from the four-walls requirement. State regulations will be promulgated to align with this upcoming SPA.

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

The department anticipates that the proposed SPA will have a positive impact on Alaska Native and American Indian Medicaid beneficiaries. By exempting tribal clinics from the four-walls requirement, this amendment will enhance the ability of tribal health providers to serve beneficiaries in the most appropriate and accessible locations. This flexibility will ensure that more individuals are able to receive care where they live, and where services are best delivered.

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

The department anticipates this SPA will have a positive impact on tribal health programs and the IHS. It aligns the Medicaid program with the regulatory changes in effect as of January 1, 2025, allowing tribal health organizations to more effectively meet the evolving needs of their communities. This flexibility will support the delivery of services in culturally appropriate and community-driven ways, reinforcing the ability of tribes to manage healthcare delivery.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than March 1, 2025, 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 Christal Hays, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or christal.hays@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christal Hays
Interim Medicaid State Plan Coordinator