



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 4, 2023

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 disaster relief Medicaid state plan amendment.

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.

**Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:**

The department is submitting a disaster relief state plan amendment (SPA) to add pharmacy dispensing fee language that was inadvertently omitted in the the disaster SPA AK 20-0003, effective March 1, 2020, which added Medicaid flexibilities during the COVID public health emergency. The omission of "medication strength" in the *Drug Benefit* section is a technical error only and did not change current dispensing fee policies.

The proposed SPA revision of the pharmacy dispensing fee section is the following:

Temporarily revise state plan provisions at Attachment 4.19-B, page 8 (K&L) to allow for a professional dispensing fee to be reimbursed no more than every 14-days per individual medication strength at \$15.86 for pharmacies located on the road system and \$23.78 for pharmacies not located on the road system. Shipping will be reimbursed regardless of the location of the pharmacy or beneficiary.

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

As this is a correction only to the SPA language only, 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 this is a correction only the SPA language only, Tribal health programs 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 April 11, 2023, by 5:00 PM. If seeking an in-person meeting to discuss the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 5 days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or [emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov](mailto:emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator