



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Director's Office

4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24, Bldg L
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-7167
Main: 907.334.2400
Fax: 907.561.1684

January 7, 2014

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA), in keeping with DHSS's responsibility to conduct tribal consultation.

Excluded Drugs for Dual Eligible Recipients: The Department intends to submit a SPA that would modify the current coverage of previously excluded outpatient drugs for recipients with both Medicaid and Medicare coverage ("dual eligible"). As of January 1, 2014, barbiturates will no longer be excluded from coverage by the Medicare part D prescription drug plans and coverage for these medications for dual eligible recipients will fall under the recipient's Medicare PDP. Barbiturates had previously been covered by Alaska Medicaid for dual eligible recipients if they were used for something other than the treatment of epilepsy, cancer, or a chronic mental health disorder because these drug classes were previously excluded from coverage by the Medicare PDPs. While access to these medications is not anticipated to be impacted because coverage will continue under the recipient's Medicare prescription drug plans there may be an impact to tribal recipients and providers due to this change.

Please provide any written comments or questions regarding this State Plan Amendment within 30 days of the date of this letter to Gennifer Moreau, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park BLVD, Building L, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or gennifer.moreau@alaska.gov. Please also feel free to call at (907) 334-2653, or if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss this upcoming State Plan Amendment please make a request in writing within 15 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gee", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gennifer Moreau
State Plan Coordinator