



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
Director's Office

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October 2, 2015

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in keeping with DHSS' responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA). This letter of consultation is being written in conjunction with public notice for regulation change.

**Free Standing Birth Centers:** The proposed amendment, in order to comply with Section 2301 of the Affordable Care Act, would add free standing birth centers as a new provider type eligible for Medicaid reimbursement when they are enrolled and licensed as a free standing birth center. In order to be reimbursed by Medicaid the facility must be licensed under AS 47.32. A free standing birth center will be directly paid an all-inclusive rate for labor and delivery services. At this time, because there are no Free Standing Birth Centers operated by Tribal Health, there is not impact to Tribal Health providers. It could affect Alaska Native and American Indian Medicaid recipients who receive services at a Free Standing Birth Center, and DHSS does not anticipate that the change will affect access to these services.

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, Bldg L, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or [gennifer.moreau@alaska.gov](mailto: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.

Comments provided in response to this consultation letter will be considered comments for the purpose of consultation and not be taken as comment to the proposed regulations. Comments to the proposed regulations cannot be considered as comments to the consultation. If you wish to comment on both the consultation and the proposed regulations, you must do so separately. To locate the proposed changes to regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services web page, at the "Public Notices" link.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gennifer Moreau".

Gennifer Moreau  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator