



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**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

December 20, 2016

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in keeping with the 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 written in conjunction with public notice for regulation change.*

Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Supplies (DMEPOS): Proposed amendment will result in conforming program rules to adopt Medicare fee schedule annually. The impact of the proposed revisions to the reimbursement rate for individual DMEPOS code will vary by code. Some of the other changes include revising enrollment requirements and payment coverage for covered items and services; payment for used or refurbished equipment; amending the list of non-covered items and services; transitioning to a capped rental system; further defining prior authorization requirements.

The changes set certain limitations but may concurrently improve access in other areas for IHS recipients. The impact is anticipated to be nominal as no IHS or tribal health entities are enrolled with Alaska Medicaid as Medical Suppliers to dispense Durable Medical Equipment (DME). It is not anticipated that IHS recipients will experience any significant impact because of the changes.

Please provide any written comments or questions regarding this proposed future State Plan Amendment within 30 days of the date of this letter to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Blvd, Bldg. L, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or courtney.king@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 directing comments regarding the regulations to Erin Narus, Pharmacy & Ancillary Services Manager, at erin.narus@alaska.gov or (907)334-2425. 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 red ink, appearing to read "Courtney O'Byrne King".

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator