



July 1, 2019

### Tribal Consultation Letter

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (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). *This letter offering consultation is concurrent with the emergency regulations process.*

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

The department intends, through a state plan amendment, to implement cost containment measures for State Fiscal Year 2020, as follows:

#### **Freeze on inflation, which affects:**

1. Hospital inpatient rates except those licensed as Critical Access Hospitals
2. Skilled nursing rates
3. Ambulatory Surgical Centers
4. Professional Services – except for the following:

Rendering provider types:

- a) 046 – Direct Entry Midwife
- b) 050 – School-Based Services
- c) 055 – Community Health Aide/Practitioner

Rendering provider specialty types regardless of rendering provider type:

- a) 001 – General Practice
- b) 008 - Family Practice
- c) 009 – Gynecology
- d) 016 – Obstetrics and Gynecology
- e) 049 – Pediatrics
- f) 054 – Obstetrics
- g) 125 – Adult Health
- h) 126 – Nurse Midwife
- i) 127 – Women's Health/OB-GYN
- j) 128 – Family Health
- k) 129 – Pediatric
- l) 130 – Gerontological

5. Personal Care Services

6. Home and Community Based Waiver Services
7. Infant Learning Targeted Case Management
8. Long Term Services and Supported Targeted Case Management
9. Community Behavioral Health Services

**Rate reduction of 5%, which affects -**

1. Hospitals per-day in-patient rates except those licensed as Critical Access Hospitals
2. Outpatient hospital payment rates except those licensed as Critical Access Hospitals
3. Ambulatory Surgical Centers rates
4. Administrative Wait Bed rate
5. Professional Services – except for the following:

Rendering provider types:

- a) 046 – Direct Entry Midwife
- b) 050 – School-Based Services
- c) 055 – Community Health Aide/Practitioner

Rendering provider specialty types regardless of rendering provider type:

- a) 001 – General Practice
- b) 008 - Family Practice
- c) 009 – Gynecology
- d) 016 – Obstetrics and Gynecology
- e) 049 – Pediatrics
- f) 054 – Obstetrics
- g) 125 – Adult Health
- h) 126 – Nurse Midwife
- i) 127 – Women’s Health/OB-GYN
- j) 128 – Family Health
- k) 129 – Pediatric
- l) 130 – Gerontological

6. Personal Care Services
7. Private Duty Nursing Services
8. Home and Community Based Waiver Services
9. Long Term Services and Supports Targeted Case Management
10. Community Behavioral Health Services
11. Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers
12. Applied Behavior Analysis Services
13. Transportation and Accommodation Services that are paid at fixed rates and not billed charges

14. Durable Medical Equipment that are not billed under the Medical Supplier provider type such as those provided by physician health groups
15. Laboratory services that are not billed under the Independent Laboratory provider type such as those provided by physician health groups
16. Outpatient drugs that are not billed under the Pharmacy provider type such as those provided by physician health groups
17. Free Standing Birthing Centers

**Rate reduction of 3%, which affects -**

1. Skilled Nursing Facilities (except tribal SNF)

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

Despite the proposed rate reductions and inflation being frozen, it is not anticipated that participation from providers will decrease and will not impact Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries from receiving services.

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

While the proposed rate adjustments will not affect the Indian Health Service rates set in the federal register, they will affect any tribal provider that receives reimbursement for services with rates set by divisions/departments with the State of Alaska, as described above.

**Mechanism and timeline for comment**

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due on July 31, 2019, by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O’Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Boulevard, Building L. Anchorage, AK 99503, or [courtney.king@alaska.gov](mailto:courtney.king@alaska.gov).

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter are for consultation and not comment on the emergency regulations. Comments on the emergency regulations are not comments for consultation on the SPA. **If you wish to provide comment for consideration in both the SPA consultation process and the emergency regulations public comment process, you must do so separately.** To locate the emergency regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services web page, at the “Public Notices” link.*

Sincerely,

Courtney O’Byrne King, MS  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator