



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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September 10, 2020

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

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 future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). This opportunity for consultation is offered concurrently with public comment on proposed regulations.

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department proposes a revision to the Home Health Benefit intended to expand the practitioners able to order these services. The department intends to implement this change by adding *other licensed practitioners operating within their scope of practice*, as practitioners authorized to order Home Health Benefits in the state plan.

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

The department does not anticipate a significant impact on service access for Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries.

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

The department anticipates the expansion of eligible ordering providers of Home Health Benefits to reduce the administrative burden on physicians in tribal health and Indian Health Services programs.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than 5:00 pm on October 22, 2020. If seeking an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request no later than 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, 3601 "C" Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Comments received in response to this tribal consultation letter are considered for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not considered comments for

*consultation on the SPA. **If you wish to provide comment for consideration in both the SPA consultation process and the regulations public comment process, you must do so separately.** To locate the regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services web page, at the "Public Notices" link*

Sincerely,

/s/

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator