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February 3, 2021

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 write to inform you of a proposed Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). *This letter offers consultation to run concurrently with public comments on proposed regulations.*

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department proposes to revise the contents of the Medicaid State Plan regarding – emergency and enhanced – adult dental services and denture services to clarify covered services and limitations.

Specifically, the department proposes to clarify the existence of the following additional exclusions from coverage and reimbursement under the adult dental and denture benefits

- dental services not identified in the following dental fee schedules: Emergent, Enhanced, and Prosthodontic;
- behavior management;
- pulp capping;
- denture characterization and personalization, and precision attachments;
- space maintainers;
- immediate, interim, and temporary dentures;
- experimental dental procedures; and
- local anesthesia, which is considered a component of covered dental procedures.

Additionally, the department proposes to modify the language surrounding (enhanced) adult dental and denture service limitations to reflect the ability to exceed the \$1150 annual per member threshold in a limited specific circumstance, with prior authorization from the State Medicaid Agency or its designee.

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

The department does not anticipate that the proposed changes will adversely impact Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries because the excluded services enumerated reflect existing practice; it does

anticipate that recipients' ability to exceed the annual thresholds in cases of extreme need will enhance recipient access to services.

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

The department does not anticipate adverse impacts on tribal health programs or the IHS due to the proposed changes; it does anticipate that the ability to exceed the annual thresholds in extreme cases will increase Medicaid reimbursement for services performed in tribal dental clinics.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than 5:00 PM on March 15, 2021. If seeking 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, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

*Comments received in response to this letter are for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not comments for consultation on the SPA. **If you wish to provide comments 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