



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 5, 2023

Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

On behalf of the Department of Health (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).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department intends to submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to continue the pharmacy professional dispensing fees approved during the federal public health emergency (PHE) for one year after the end of the PHE.

The department received Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approval in 2020 (via dSPA 20-0003) to increase pharmacy professional dispensing fees during the PHE. The department extended this flexibility through September 30, 2023, via SPA AK 22-015. The department proposes to supersede SPA AK-22-015 to extend the current professional dispensing fees for one year after the end of the PHE, through May 11, 2024. This request provides the department time to enact regulations revising the pharmacy dispensing fees.

The proposed SPA does not include the dSPA 20-0003 flexibility to reimburse a professional dispensing fee every 14-days per individual medication strength. After May 11, 2023, the state will revert to the SPA 19-0006, Attachment 4.19-B, page 8 (K) policy of reimbursing a professional dispensing fee no more than once every 22 days per individual medication strength.

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

The department anticipates the proposed SPA to facilitate the continuation of pharmacy services in communities with limited access.

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

The department anticipates the proposed SPA to facilitate ongoing service provision by tribal pharmacy providers.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than ~~Friday, May 5-Wednesday, May 17, 2023~~, by 5:00 PM. If seeking an in-person meeting to discuss the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator