



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

February 4, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Medicaid State Plan Amendment 25-0008 Alternative Benefit Plan Updates

In accordance with section 1902(a)(73)(A) of the Social Security Act regarding the solicitation of advice prior to the submission of any Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) or waiver likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations, the Health Care Authority (HCA) hereby seeks your advice on the following matter.

Purpose

The Health Care Authority (HCA) intends to submit Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0008 to bring the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) into alignment with the Medicaid State Plan. The ABP is the plan by which Washington expanded Medicaid coverage to people ages 19 through 64 with income at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level as allowed by the Affordable Care Act. ABPs are aligned with the Medicaid State Plan regarding service coverage and must be updated to reflect changes made to that Plan. SPA 25-0008 updates the ABP to reflect the following changes that have already been made to the Medicaid State Plan.

- Add coverage of non-routine Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines and vaccine administration as described in section 1905(a)(13)(B) of the Social Security Act.
- Add Behavioral Health Support Specialists, Birth Doulas, Certified Community Health Aide Providers (CHAP), Community Health Workers (CHWs), Licensed Advance Social Worker Associates, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker Associates, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associates, Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associates, and Substance Use Disorder Professionals.

Please note that additional information may be added to the ABP as Medicaid SPAs are approved prior to the submission of SPA 25-0008.

SPA 25-0008 is an administrative action to bring the ABP into alignment with the Medicaid State Plan. There are no changes to existing policy and practice.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations

HCA does not anticipate this SPA to have an impact that is specific to American Indian/Alaska Native Medicaid applicants or enrollees, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Health Organizations. However, HCA would appreciate any input or concerns that Tribal representatives wish to share, including

whether this SPA will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native Medicaid applicants or enrollees, Indian Health programs, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copy Available on Request

HCA is in the process of completing the draft SPA. A copy of the draft SPA will be provided on request as soon as it becomes available.

Comments and Questions

HCA would appreciate any input or concerns that Tribal representatives wish to share regarding this SPA. Comments should be submitted to Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, via email at ann.myers@hca.wa.gov by April 7, 2025.

Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, via email at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov if you have tribal affairs-related questions or concerns.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charissa Fotinos MD, MSc".

Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director

By email

cc: Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, DLS, HCA