



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

January 28, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Medicaid State Plan Amendment 25-0002 Dental Therapists**

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) 25-0002 to comply with Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1678 (Chapter 460, Laws of 2023), establishing the profession of Dental Therapist, whose practice is limited to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Tribal FQHCs, and FQHC lookalikes. Dental Therapists must be licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) and practice under the supervision of a dentist licensed in Washington or exempt from licensure under the Indian Health Care Improvement. Dental Therapist services will be eligible for the FQHC encounter rate.

This SPA is anticipated to become effective July 1, 2025.

**Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian 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 Upon 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. To request a copy of the draft SPA or return any comments, please contact Jayson Diaz,

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Clinical Dental Program Manager email at [jayson.diaz@hca.wa.gov](mailto:jayson.diaz@hca.wa.gov) with a courtesy copy to Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, at [ann.myers@hca.wa.gov](mailto:ann.myers@hca.wa.gov) by March 3, 2025.

Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, via email at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto: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

cc: Jayson Diaz, Clinical Dental Program Manager, CQCT, HCA  
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, DLS, HCA  
Kristen Peterson, Deputy Secretary, Policy, Planning & Evaluation, DOH