



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5504

December 20, 2011

Dear Tribal Chairperson/RAIO Director/Tribal Health Director:

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is writing in accordance with the Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicaid Medicare Services requirement under section 5006 of ARRA regarding the solicitation of advice prior to the submission of any Medicaid State plan amendment likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations.

**Purpose**

To avoid elimination of the pharmacy benefit for Medicaid clients in response to budget shortfalls, the state intends to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 12-002 to implement a formulary in accord with the provisions of Section 1927 of the Social Security Act, and establish a process through which Medicaid prescribers may request authorization for their patient to receive a non-formulary medication. Implementing a formulary within the Medicaid program will allow the state to better control the costs of the pharmacy benefit.

**Anticipated Impact on Tribal Members**

This SPA will affect *all* Medicaid clients, including the state's Tribes and American Indian/Alaska Natives. This change will limit the drugs a prescriber may choose from when prescribing for a Medicaid client, and some clients may need to change from medications they currently take to medications which are included on the formulary.

**Comments and Questions**

The Agency would like to provide the opportunity for tribal representatives to give input or share concerns regarding this SPA. Please return any comments to Charles Agte, Pharmacy Program Manager, at (360) 725-1301 or via email at [charles.agte@hca.wa.gov](mailto:charles.agte@hca.wa.gov) with a carbon copy (cc) to Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, at [MYERSEA@hca.wa.gov](mailto:MYERSEA@hca.wa.gov) by February 12, 2012.

Please contact Deborah Sosa, Native Health Program Manager, at (360) 725-1649 or via email at [sosada@hca.wa.gov](mailto:sosada@hca.wa.gov), if you would like to request formal consultation or have tribal-specific questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

Doug Porter  
Director

cc: Charles Agte, Pharmacy Program Manager, DHS, HCA  
Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, DLAS, HCA  
Deborah A. Sosa, Native Health Program Manager, HCP, HCA