



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

March 16, 2012

Dear Tribal Chairperson/RAIO Director/Tribal Health Director:

The Health Care Authority (HCA) 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 likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations.

Purpose

The state intends to submit Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) 12-011. This SPA is being submitted to remove the monetary thresholds below which the state does not collect for health claims and casualty-related claims. If a Medicaid beneficiary has a private insurance policy or is covered by another government program, that carrier or program may be responsible for medical costs incurred by Medicaid. Currently, unless the amount to be billed exceeds \$15 for health claims and \$50 for casualty-related claims, it is not considered cost-effective to collect. However, these thresholds were set many years ago when the state used a manual collection process. With the use of upgraded claims processing techniques, these thresholds are obsolete.

Anticipated Impact on Tribal Members

The anticipated impact on Tribes is the same as the anticipated impact on other entities from whom the state may collect. Those collected amounts may increase by the current threshold amounts described above. Medicaid will continue to be the payer of last resort for services provided through IHS contract health funding.

Comments and Questions

HCA would like to provide the opportunity for tribal representatives to give input or share concerns regarding this SPA. Please return any comments to Andy Renggli, Section Manager at (360) 725- 1207 or via email at andy.renggli@hca.wa.gov with a copy to Ann Myers, SPA Coordinator at MYERSEA@hca.wa.gov by March 23, 2012.

Please contact Deborah Sosa, Native Health Program Manager, at (360) 725-1649 or via email at 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: Andy Renggli, Section Manager, COB, DFS, HCA
Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, LAS, HCA
Deborah A. Sosa, Native Health Program Manager, HCP, HCA