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September 4, 2012

Carol Peverly  
Associate Regional Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operation  
2201 Sixth Ave. MS RX-43  
Seattle, WA 97121

Dear Ms. Peverly,

In April of this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a supplemental payment program for Arizona under its Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. The program allows federal Medicaid funds to be used for payments to participating Indian Health Services (IHS) and tribal facilities for uncompensated care. The payments are limited to categories of care that were previously covered by the state.

Over the years, budget constraints have required Oregon's Medicaid program to limit or eliminate services covered under the Oregon Health Plan, the state's Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. Tribal representatives are eager to work with us to explore options that would allow for IHS and tribal facilities to receive reimbursement for services no longer covered by the state. In fact, Tribal representatives are also working with Washington's Medicaid officials with the same purpose.

To efficiently and effectively develop a proposal, the Oregon Health Authority respectfully requests that CMS identify a staff person to provide the state and Tribal representative's technical assistance on how to proceed in our effort to design and obtain approval for a program similar to Arizona's uncompensated care payment model.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please contact Helena Kesch at (503) 945-6800. She is our staff lead on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Mohr Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Judy Mohr Peterson  
Director, Division of Medical Assistance Programs  
Oregon Health Authority

cc: Joe Finkbonner, RPh, MHA, NPAIHB Executive Director  
Jim Roberts, NPAIHB Policy Analyst  
Roger Gantz  
Don Ross, DMAP Policy Unit  
Helena Kesch, DMAP Policy Unit