



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

January 29, 2020

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

**RE:** Removal of Copayment for Drugs Used to Counteract Opioid Overdose

This letter, in compliance with Section 1902(a)(73) and Section 2107(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act, serves as notice to all Tribal Chairs and Health Directors of the intent by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The purpose of this SPA submission is to remove the pharmacy benefit copayment on outpatient prescription drugs used to counteract opioid overdose. This change is in ongoing support of Michigan Opioids Task Force objectives. This SPA positively impacts Tribal Health Centers by removing financial barriers to obtaining these drugs, resulting in increased access for beneficiaries not already exempt from copays. The anticipated effective date of this SPA is January 1, 2020.

There is no public hearing scheduled for this SPA. Input regarding this SPA is highly encouraged, and comments regarding this notice of intent may be submitted to Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS liaison to the Michigan tribes. Lorna can be reached at 517-284-4034, or via email at [Elliott-EganL@michigan.gov](mailto:Elliott-EganL@michigan.gov). **Please provide all input by March 14, 2020.**

In addition, MDHHS is offering to set up group or individual consultation meetings to discuss the SPA, according to the tribes' preference. Consultation meetings allow tribes the opportunity to address any concerns and voice any suggestions, revisions, or objections to be relayed to the author of the proposal. If you would like additional information or wish to schedule a consultation meeting, please contact Lorna Elliott-Egan at the telephone number or email address provided above.

L 20-05  
January 29, 2020  
Page 2

MDHHS appreciates the continued opportunity to work collaboratively with you to care for the residents of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Massey", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director  
Medical Services Administration

cc: Tannisse Joyce, CMS  
Keri Toback, CMS  
Leslie Campbell, CMS  
Nancy Grano, CMS  
Chastity Dial, CEO, American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan  
Daniel Frye, Director, Indian Health Service - Bemidji Area Office  
Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS

**Distribution List for L 20-05**  
**January 29, 2020**

Mr. Bryan Newland, Tribal Chairman, Bay Mills Indian Community  
Ms. Audrey Breakie, Health Director, Bay Mills (Ellen Marshall Memorial Center)  
Mr. Thurlow Samuel McClellan, Chairman, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa & Chippewa Indians  
Mr. Soumit Pendharkar, Health Director, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa/Chippewa  
Mr. Kenneth Meshigaud, Tribal Chairman, Hannahville Indian Community  
Ms. G. Susie Meshigaud, Health Director, Hannahville Health Center  
Mr. Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Ms. Kathy Mayo, Interim Health Director, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community - Donald Lapointe Health/Educ Facility  
Mr. James Williams, Jr., Tribal Chairman, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Ms. Sadie Valliere, Health & Human Services Director, Lac Vieux Desert Band  
Mr. Larry Romanelli, Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Mr. Daryl Wever, Health Director, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Ms. Regina Gasco-Bentley, Tribal Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians  
Ms. Jodi Werner, Health Director, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa  
Mr. Bob Peters, Chairman, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Band)  
Ms. Kelly Wesaw, Health Director, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi  
Mr. Jamie Stuck, Tribal Chairman, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Ms. Rosalind Johnston, Health Director, Huron Potawatomi Inc.- Tribal Health Department  
Mr. Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Chairman, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Mr. Matt Clay, Health Director, Pokagon Potawatomi Health Services  
Mr. Ronald Ekdahl, Tribal Chief, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
Mrs. Karmen Fox, Executive Health Director, Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center  
Mr. Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Mr. Leonid Chugunov, Health Director, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians - Health Center

CC: Tannisse Joyce, CMS  
Keri Toback, CMS  
Leslie Campbell, CMS  
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