



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

January 29, 2019

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

**RE:** Amendment to Letter L 18-70 – Rural Health Clinic Alternate Payment Methodology

On December 3, 2018, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued Letter L 18-70 to all Tribal Chairs and Health Directors, in compliance with Section 1902(a)(73) and Section 2107(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act, providing notice of MDHHS' intent to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop an alternate payment methodology for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). This letter provides additional information regarding the proposed amendment.

The SPA would allow an alternate payment methodology for independent RHCs only. Provider based RHCs will continue to be paid under the established prospective payment system methodology. MDHHS expects this change will have a positive impact for Native American beneficiaries who may seek care from an RHC provider, since the RHC provider increases access to care for Native Americans living in rural areas. The proposed effective date of the SPA is February 1, 2019.

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 15, 2019.**

In addition, MDHHS is offering to set up group or individual consultation meetings in order to discuss this 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.

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 "Kathy Stiffler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director  
Medical Services Administration

cc: Keri Toback, Region V, CMS  
Leslie Campbell, Region V, CMS  
Justyna Redlinski, Region V, CMS  
Ashley Tuomi, MHPA, Executive Director, American Indian Health and Family  
Services of Southeastern Michigan  
L. John Lufkins, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.  
Keith Longie, Director, Indian Health Service - Bemidji Area Office  
Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS

**Distribution List for L 19-04**  
**January 29, 2019**

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  
Ms. Ruth Bussey, 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  
Mr. Soumit Pendharkar, 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. Bob Davis, 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: Keri Toback, Region V, CMS  
Leslie Campbell, Region V, CMS  
Justyna Redlinski, Region V, CMS  
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