



Susana Martinez, Governor  
Brent Earnest, Secretary  
Nancy Smith-Leslie, Director

March 31, 2017

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 17-004: New Mexico Alternative Benefit Plan

Dear Tribal Leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Providers, and Other Interested Parties:

Seeking advice and comments from New Mexico's Indian nations, tribes, pueblos and their health care providers is an important component of the government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico. In accordance with the New Mexico Human Services Department's (HSD's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting written comments until **5:00pm Mountain Standard Time (MST) on Monday, May 8, 2017** regarding State Plan Amendment (SPA) 17-004, which selects the base benchmark and outlines the benefit package for individuals in the Medicaid Other Adult Group (OAG) – also known as the Medicaid Expansion Category – under the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP).

**SPA 17-004 makes no material changes to the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP).** This SPA is required as part of the ABP conforming changes set by federal regulation, which mandate updates to the ABP base benchmark plan. HSD/MAD views this as a technical change only with no impact upon covered services or benefits. The state's original base benchmark for the ABP, Lovelace Classic PPO, is no longer available; therefore, HSD/MAD selects a new base benchmark plan in alignment with the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, which is Presbyterian Health Plan Individual Silver C HMO.

Since this is a technical revision to the ABP State Plan and does not result in any material changes to the services or benefits covered in the ABP, HSD/MAD submitted SPA 17-004 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 30, 2017, with an effective date of January 1, 2017.

#### **Estimated Total Financial Impact**

This is a technical revision to the ABP State Plan with no changes to covered benefits or services; therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be any increased costs overall in the Medicaid program as a result of SPA 17-004.

## **Tribal Impact**

This is a technical revision to the ABP State Plan with no changes to covered benefits or services; therefore, HSD/MAD does not perceive a direct tribal impact resulting from SPA 17-004. Tribal members who receive services under the ABP will continue to do so with no change to their current benefit package.

## **Tribal Advice and Comments**

Tribes and tribal health care providers may view State Plan Amendment (SPA) 17-004 on the HSD webpage at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/public-notice-proposed-rule-and-waiver-changes-and-opportunities-to-comment.aspx>. Although HSD/MAD has submitted SPA 17-004 to CMS for consideration, the Department will accept advice and comments and may make adjustments to the SPA based on feedback received, if needed.

SPA 17-004 ABP Base Benchmark  
SPA 17-004 ABP Benefits Description

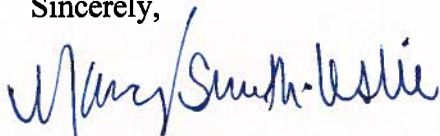
A written copy of these documents may be requested by contacting the HSD Medical Assistance Division (HSD/MAD) in Santa Fe at (505) 827-6252.

## **Important Dates**

**Written advice and comments must be received no later than 5:00pm MST on Monday, May 8, 2017.** Please send your advice, comments or questions to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 827-3122 or by email to [theresa.belanger@state.nm.us](mailto:theresa.belanger@state.nm.us).

All comments and responses will be compiled and made available after May 8, 2017.

Sincerely,



Nancy Smith-Leslie  
Director

cc: Kari Armijo, HSD/MAD Deputy Director  
Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, HSD/MAD  
HSD/MAD Centennial Care Bureau  
HSD/MAD Program Policy Bureau