

Tribal Technical Advisory Group

To the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Delivered via electronic transmission

April 13, 2011

Dr. Donald Berwick, M.D.
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 445-G
Hubert Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

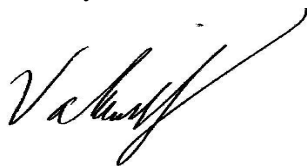
Dear Dr. Berwick,

We appreciate your participation in the last Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) meeting and the opportunity to discuss your leadership role with regard to the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO). While we have worked with the CCIIO staff on a number of issues, we would like to brief you on four items that must be addressed if American Indians and Alaska Native are going to participate fully in health insurance exchanges in 2014. These items are:

- Defining the Indian Health Service, Tribes, tribally-operated programs, and urban Indian programs (I/T/U) as essential community providers (ECPs) and requiring plans in the health insurance exchanges to offer contracts to all I/T/U in their networks.
- Providing an addendum to plans in health insurance exchanges to address issues that are specific to I/T health programs.
- Allowing Tribes and Tribal organizations to become financial sponsors for American Indians and Alaska Natives they designate and pay the balance of their premium costs that are not subsidized in the exchanges, through a collective payment process.
- Funding outreach and education conducted by Tribes and Tribal organizations to increase enrollment in Medicaid and exchange plans.

On behalf of the TTAG, we would like to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss these four specific items and how we can work together to assure that implementation of the Affordable Care Act includes policies that will promote the inclusion of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,



Valerie Davidson, TTAG Chair



Ron Allen, TTAG Vice-Chair

Cc: Kitty Marx, Director, CMS Tribal Affairs Group