



**Medical Services**  
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Jack Dalrymple, Governor  
Maggie D. Anderson, Executive Director

June 13, 2014

Mr. Scott Davis  
ND Indian Affairs Commission  
600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck ND 58505

Dear Mr. Davis:

On February 4, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA). Since that time the North Dakota Department of Human Services has been working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement the CHIPRA requirements.

This letter is specific to 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 438 specific to Managed Care regulations relating to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), also known as Healthy Steps in North Dakota. The Department of Human Services, Medical Services Division expects that changes being implemented may directly impact the North Dakota Tribes or Tribal Programs by ensuring higher standards of quality for children enrolled in the Healthy Steps insurance plan. The intent of this change is to monitor quality within the Healthy Steps insurance plan.

This letter serves as prior notice of the proposed changes. The effective date of the proposed quality assurance strategy change is July 31, 2014. Please review the enclosed proposed Quality Assurance Strategy.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please contact Cindy Sheldon, Deputy Director, Medical Services Division at [cmsheldon@nd.gov](mailto:cmsheldon@nd.gov), mailing a written response to 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 325, Bismarck, ND 58505 or by calling 701.328.4626. Please provide all input by June 2, 2011.

The Department appreciates the continuing opportunity to work collaboratively with The North Dakota Tribes to achieve the Department's mission, which is: "To provide quality, efficient, and effective human services, which improve the lives of people."

Sincerely,

Julie Schwab  
Director, Medical Services

enclosure

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**  
**600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 4, 2014**

For more information, contact: LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933.

**Agency Seeking Input on Children's Health Insurance Program  
Quality Strategy Plan**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services is seeking public comment on its draft 2015-2018 Quality Strategy plan for Healthy Steps, the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Quality Strategy plan will guide the department and the Healthy Steps vendor, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, in their efforts to ensure safe, effective, efficient, patient-centered, timely and equitable health care coverage for children enrolled in CHIP.

"This is an opportunity for families, advocates, stakeholders and others to comment on how the program can better serve children and families," said Jodi Hulm, the department's CHIP administrator.

The draft Quality Strategy plan is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html). It can also be obtained by calling 701-328-2323, toll free 800-755-2604, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or by e-mailing [jmhulm@nd.gov](mailto:jmhulm@nd.gov).

Comments will be accepted until 4 p.m. (Central Time) on June 30, 2014. They can be sent to Jodi Hulm, CHIP Administrator, N.D. Department of Human Services, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250 or [jmhulm@nd.gov](mailto:jmhulm@nd.gov).

Following the completion of the public comment period, a final draft of the Quality Strategy plan will be finalized in July and then submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for approval.

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