

April 10, 2017

E-mail Message to Stakeholders (Draft)

Subject: Changing Processes for Determining Shortage Designations

The Health Resources and Services Administration began the “Shortage Designation Project” in 2014 to give greater transparency, accountability, and parity to the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation and scoring process. As a result, HPSAs in Alaska will be changing.

One component of this process is an Impact Analysis. It is a planning and informational tool for State Primary Care Offices (PCO) to prioritize their shortage designation work and to prepare stakeholders for any changes that may occur with the National Shortage Designation Update, scheduled to be effective July 2018.

Attached please find a summary document explaining changes to the designation process and summarizing findings of the first Impact Analysis, conducted February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. As well, more detailed information is available upon request from the State PCO.

Alaska’s PCO has been working to address potential changes to HPSA’s by updating the data sets within the newly launched “Shortage Designation Management System.” HRSA is completing a follow-up Impact Analysis, and State PCOs will have those results by mid-April.

The State PCO will be conducting two webinars on the February 4th Impact Analysis and findings. One webinar will be presented in partnership with the Alaska Primary Care Association on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Please see webinar link and phone number below:

[https://alaskapca.adobeconnect.com/hpsa\\_impact\\_analysis/](https://alaskapca.adobeconnect.com/hpsa_impact_analysis/)

Call-In Number: 1-888-537-7715 Participant PIN: 50688069

A second webinar will be offered on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 2:30PM to 4:00 PM. For information on webinar link and phone number, please send an e-mail request to [Susan.Mason-Bouterse@alaska.gov](mailto:Susan.Mason-Bouterse@alaska.gov)

Links to the attached document and audio recording of the above webinar may be accessed at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Pages/default.aspx> For more information, contact the State’s PCO Manager at 907-465-8534. ***Please feel free to share this information.***