

December 11, 2024

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 24-27: Medicaid Provider Payment Rates

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 Health Care Authority's (HCA's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HCA, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting written comments until 5:00 p.m., Mountain Time (MT) on January 17, 2025, regarding proposed increases to Medicaid Provider Payment Rates.

The New Mexico HCA is implementing specific provider reimbursement rate increases as part of Governor Lujan Grisham's focus on health care and as a critical step in strengthening the state's partnership with providers who deliver care and services to Medicaid patients. The proposed rate increases were supported, endorsed and funded by the New Mexico Legislature in House Bill 2 (HB2) during the 2024 Legislative Session. Raising Medicaid reimbursement rates will help ensure access to high quality care for Medicaid patients and attract and retain health care providers in New Mexico.

The proposed rate increases include:

- Reimbursement raised up to 150% of the established Medicare rate for maternal and child health services, primary care, and behavioral health services; and
- Reimbursement raised up to 100% of the established Medicare rate for other services.
- Implementation of pay parity between physicians and non-physician practitioners. Where Medicare rates are not available because the service is not covered, the remainder of the HB2 appropriation is disbursed across the fee schedule codes.

Tribal Impact

The HCA anticipates a positive financial impact for Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos and their health care providers with these changes.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and tribal healthcare providers may view the proposed changes, on the HCA webpage at: https://www.hca.nm.gov/providers/written-tribal-notification-letters/. *Notification letter 24-27*.

A written copy of these documents may be requested by contacting the HCA Medical Assistance Division (HCA/MAD) in Santa Fe at (505) 827-1337.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) January 17, 2025. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 670-8067 or by email at: Theresa.Belanger@hca.nm.gov. All written comments received will be posted on the HCA website at: https://www.hca.nm.gov/providers/written-tribal-notification-letters/ along with this notification letter. The public posting will include the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

All comments and responses will be compiled and made available after February 7, 2025.

Sincerely,

Dana Flannery, Director Medical Assistance Division