

August 25, 2016

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advise and Comments Letter 16-13: Access Monitoring Review Plan

Dear Tribal Leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Providers and other interested parties,

Seeking advice and comment from New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their healthcare 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) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Process, this letter is to notify you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting written comments through September 26, 2016, on HSD's "*Access Monitoring Review Plan – Studying Medicaid Recipient Access to Healthcare Providers.*"

As the agency responsible for the Medicaid programs and services in New Mexico, in accordance with 42 CFR 447.203, HSD/MAD is developing methods to periodically measure and monitor the participation and availability of healthcare providers in the New Mexico Medicaid program to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries ("recipients") have access to care that is comparable to the non-Medicaid general population.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has directed that the initial Access Monitoring Review Plan ("Plan") be based on calendar year 2015. When appropriate, the month of July 2015 is specifically used for detailed analysis. The 2015 Plan pertains to New Mexico Medicaid fee for service recipients as required by 42 CFR 447.203. The initial Plan will be used to establish base line data from which additional studies and future analyses can be performed and be expanded as appropriate.

The federal requirements for calendar year 2015 consist of:

1. Defining the recipient population that will be included in the Plan.
2. Identifying the areas of the state where the recipient population resides and identifying healthcare providers in their county and in their surrounding healthcare service area.
3. Categorizing information from databases which contain reports from recipients on access issues.
4. Comparing the Medicaid fee schedule to the Medicare fee schedule.

5. Meeting the federal requirements for the Access Monitoring Review Plan which include the following provider services:
- Primary Care services
 - Physician Specialist services
 - Behavioral Health services
 - Pre- and post-Natal Obstetric services, including labor and delivery
 - Home Health services
 - Dental Health services

Tribal Impact: The great majority of Medicaid recipients in the Medicaid fee for service program are Native Americans. The 2015 Access Monitoring Review Plan study does not immediately impact IHS, tribal healthcare providers, or Native Americans. However, comments and suggestions on the Plan will help HSD/MAD to construct the Plan to more accurately measure and monitor healthcare access for Native Americans to better identify access issues and areas where access problems may exist. Such information could be very helpful for future program planning and program operations.

Any comments received on this 2015 Access Monitoring Review Plan will also be considered for incorporation into future versions of the Access Monitoring Review Plan.

Once comments have been received and considered, the Plan and a summary of comments will be submitted to CMS for their review.

Tribal Advice Comments

Tribes, Native Americans, and their healthcare providers may view the Access Monitoring Review Plan on its webpage at:

<http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultation-letters.aspx> **Letter 16-13**

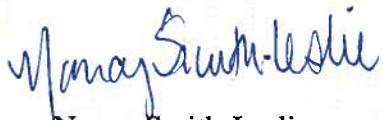
Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) on September 26, 2016.

Please send your comments and questions to the MAD Native American Liaison, **Theresa Belanger**, at (505) 827-3122 or by email at: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us.

All comments and responses will be compiled and available *after September 30, 2016*.

Sincerely,



Nancy Smith-Leslie
Director
Medical Assistance Division

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