



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR
HEALTH WASHINGTON DC
20420

June 20, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce implementation of a revised VA-Tribal Health Program (THP) Reimbursement Agreement template for the Lower 48 states. This Agreement template replaces and expands upon the prior direct care Agreements between VA and THPs, originally executed beginning in 2012. This significant update underscores our commitment to strengthening the partnership between VA and Tribal Health Programs to share resources and enhance access to health care services provided to American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

The revised Agreement includes several key improvements designed to expand the scope of reimbursements and honor the unique capabilities and traditions of Tribal Health Programs. Some of the notable enhancements in the Agreement are as follows:

1. **Streamlined Agreement:** We have streamlined the Agreement to be more concise and reduce duplicative terms.
2. **Expanded Scope:** The scope of reimbursable services has been broadened to include additional types of Direct Care services, as well as Purchased Referred Care (PRC) and Contracted Travel, thereby offering more comprehensive financial support for THP facilities.
3. **Removed VA Quality Oversight:** We have removed the requirement to submit proof of accreditation and to attend an annual quality review, reducing the administrative burden and resources spent on documenting and reporting.
4. **Modified Pharmacy Requirement:** We have removed limiting pharmacy reimbursement to only those on VA's formulary and adopted a standardized reimbursement rate, utilizing Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC).
5. **Adjusted Terms:** We have expanded timely filing to 36 months and removed the expiration date to allow for maximum reimbursement and reduced administrative burden.

These revisions reflect the valuable feedback and recommendations received from Tribal leaders and health program administrators during our consultations. Your insights have been instrumental in shaping a more effective and equitable agreement. We are confident that these improvements will significantly enhance the Reimbursement Agreement Program (RAP) and will further strengthen the partnership between the VA and Tribal Health Programs. Moreover, we would like to emphasize that this revised Agreement is a continuation of our partnerships, and VA is determined to uphold our commitment to consultation with our Tribal partners through both written feedback and listening sessions moving forward.

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The revised VA - THP Lower 48 Reimbursement Agreement is attached and will be available for review on the VA's website (<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info-IHS-THP.asp>) Additionally, VA has sent the agreement to all current participating THPs for signature. If your facility has not received the template, please contact us at Tribal.Agreements@va.gov.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the RAP program office at Tribal.Agreements@va.gov.

We deeply value your ongoing support and collaboration in this important endeavor. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the health and well-being of our Veterans.

Sincerely,

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