



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary
Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H, Director

March 4, 2022

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 22-10: Extended Postpartum Coverage

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 Human Services Department's (HSD's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting comments until **5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) April 3, 2022**, regarding state plan amendment (SPA) 22-0013 Extended Postpartum Coverage.

Effective April 1, 2022, New Mexico Medicaid is implementing the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) option to provide 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. This option is currently limited to a 5-year period. The 12-month postpartum period begins on the last day of a beneficiary's pregnancy and extends through the end of the month in which the 12-month period ends.

Tribal Impact

The impact to Native Americans is positive in that pregnant individuals will be eligible for full coverage Medicaid for the duration of the pregnancy and through a 12-month postpartum period. Currently pregnant individual's coverage is for a 60-day postpartum period.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and their healthcare providers may view the proposed changes, on the HSD webpage at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> **Tribal Notification 22-10.**

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) April 3, 2022. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, **Theresa Belanger**, at (505) 670-8067 or by email at: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us. All written comments received will be posted on the HSD website at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> along with this notification letter. The public posting will include the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

Tribal Leadership may request a government-to-government consultation by April 3, 2022. This

request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Comeaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "C".

Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H.
State Medicaid Director