



**Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor**  
Kari Armijo, Acting Secretary  
Lorelei Kellogg, Acting Medicaid Director

August 31, 2023

**RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 23-15: Rural Emergency Hospital Designation**

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) September 30, 2023**, regarding state plan amendment (SPA) 23-0014 **Rural Emergency Hospital Designation**.

The New Mexico Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division is providing notice on plans to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) request to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish reimbursement for Rural Emergency Hospitals. The anticipated effective date for the Rural Emergency Hospital reimbursement SPA is September 1, 2023. These changes will be completed in a manner that is consistent with budget neutrality to the State of New Mexico.

**Tribal Impact**

HSD does not anticipate a negative impact for Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos and their health care providers.

**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 23-15**.

**Important Dates**

**Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) September 30, 2023.** Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, **Theresa Belanger**, at **(505) 670-8067** or by email at: [Theresa.Belanger@hsd.nm.gov](mailto:Theresa.Belanger@hsd.nm.gov). 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 September 30, 2023.** This request may be made to: [Theresa.Belanger@hsd.nm.gov](mailto:Theresa.Belanger@hsd.nm.gov) or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' and 'K' followed by a horizontal line.

Lorelei Kellogg  
Acting Medicaid Director