



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

February 9, 2022

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 22-03: 2022 COVID-19 Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), Nursing Facility (NF) and Hospital Payment Rate Increases

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) March 11, 2022**, regarding 2022 COVID-19 non-emergency medical transportation, nursing facility and hospital payment rate increases.

Effective January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022, HSD is implementing payment increases for non-emergency medical transportation, nursing facilities and hospitals as follows:

1. New Mexico Medicaid will apply a 6.81% rate increase to NEMT providers;
2. New Mexico Medicaid will apply a 30% rate increase to short term skilled and custodial nursing facility services for Medicaid members who test positive for COVID-19 and need inpatient care. The rate increase is equal to 30% of the individual facility's high NF rate; and
3. New Mexico will apply rate increases of 50% for ICU inpatient hospital services and a 12.4% rate increase for all other inpatient hospital services. Increases are applied to the provider-specific DRG rates and pass-through amounts as well as inpatient hospital stays that are not reimbursed on a DRG basis.

Tribal Impact

HSD does not anticipate a financial impact to Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos or their health care providers as they will continue to be reimbursed at the OMB rate.

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 22-03**.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) March 11, 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 March 11, 2022. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,



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