

August 13, 2020

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 20-14: Targeted Access Payments

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 written comments until **5:00pm Mountain Time (MT) September 11, 2020**, regarding proposed targeted access payments (TAPs).

Effective July 1, 2020, the New Mexico Human Services Department proposes to implement targeted access payments for Safety-Net Care Pool (SNCP) hospitals. TAPs are made based on a calculation of what the SNCP hospital received in prior year uncompensated care (UC) payments compared to the hospital access payments (HAP) the SNCP hospital will receive. The HAP program replaced the UC program for CY20. Targeted access payments are designed to ensure access at SNCP hospitals during the transition from the UC program to the HAP program. TAPs are restricted based on upper payment limit (UPL) analysis and will be made quarterly only for the CY20 period. Thereafter, targeted access payments will cease, and only hospital access payments will be made.

Tribal Impact

This proposed change will not affect payment rates for services paid at encounter rates or OMB rates. This includes Indian Health Services (IHS) and tribal health facilities.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and tribal health care providers may view the proposed changes on the HSD website at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx>, Tribal Notification **20-14**.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm Mountain Time (MT) on September 11,

2020. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 827-3122 or by email to Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us. All written comments received will be posted as they are received on the HSD website at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> along with the applicable 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 11, 2020. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 827-3122.

Sincerely,



Nicole Comeaux, Director
Medical Assistance Division

cc: Megan Pfeffer, HSD/MAD Deputy Director
Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, HSD/MAD