



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

November 14, 2020

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 20-25: Air Ambulance Rates

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) on December 14, 2020**, regarding proposed increases to Air Ambulance rates.

Effective November 15, 2020, HSD proposes to increase rates for Air Ambulance to seventy-five percent of the current Medicare Air Ambulance fee schedule. Air Ambulance rates have not changed since 2008; however, operating costs have increased, which has put a burden on Medicaid providers. The proposed increases are intended to offset expenses to Medicaid providers while providing needed funds for critical life-saving services.

The HCPCS codes affected by the rate increases are as follows:

- **A0430** - AMBULANCE SERVICE, CONVENTIONAL AIR SERVICES, TRANSPORT, ONE WAY (FIXED WING)
- **A0431** - AMBULANCE SERVICE, CONVENTIONAL AIR SERVICES, TRANSPORT, ONE WAY (ROTARY WING)
- **A0436** - ROTARY WING AIR MILEAGE, PER STATUTE MILE

Current and proposed rates are as follows:

Procedure Code	Medicaid Rate	Medicare Rate	Percent of Medicare	New Rate
A0430	\$1,836.38	\$3,147.90	75%	\$2,360.93
A0431	\$2,025.70	\$3,659.90	75%	\$2,744.93
A0436	\$10.63	\$23.83	75%	\$17.87

Tribal Impact

The Human Services Department does not anticipate a service or financial impact to Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos or their health care providers with these proposed Air Ambulance rate increases.

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 **20-25**.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm Mountain Time (MT) on December 14, 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 December 14, 2020. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 827-3122.

Sincerely,



Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H., Director
Medical Assistance Division

cc: Lorelei Kellogg, HSD/MAD Deputy Director
Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, HSD/MAD