



APR 5 2012



Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to continue consultation to facilitate the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) reimbursement for direct care services provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal health facilities to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans.

On March 5, 2012, VA and IHS sent you a letter requesting your input on the main points we propose to include in a draft underlying agreement. While we are reviewing the input submitted by Tribes on the main points document, we are now requesting your input on the draft agreement, which is enclosed. The draft agreement sets forth the underlying terms and conditions for reimbursement between VA and IHS facilities, and between VA and Tribal health facilities should Tribes elect to enter into such agreements with VA. IHS and VA are proposing that implementation of these agreements will begin with a demonstration project at a limited number of sites. We specifically request your recommendations for the demonstration project, including the types of sites, number of sites and recommended demonstration locations.

Please submit written comments to both email addresses listed below no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. We appreciate your input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

/Robert A. Petzel/
Robert A. Petzel, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

/Yvette Roubideaux/
Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Indian Health Service

Address for comments:

Email: tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov and consultation@ihs.gov