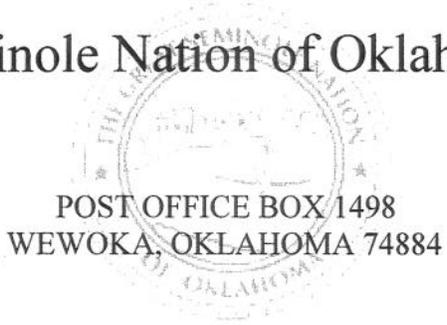


Rec'd. 6/28/06

# Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Enoch Kelly Haney, Principal Chief  
Larry Harrison, Assistant Chief  
Phone: (405) 257-7200  
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May 22, 2006

Betty Gould, Regulations Officer  
Division of Regulatory Affairs, Records  
Access and Policy Liaison  
Indian Health Service  
801 Thompson Avenue  
Suite 450  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Ms. Gould:

SUBJECT: Comments on Section 506, MMA, 2003-Medicare Like Rates Provision

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma welcomes the opportunity to comment on "Section 506 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003-Limitation on Charges for Services Furnished by Medicare Participating Inpatient Hospitals to Indians" as published in the Federal Register/Vol.71 No.82/ Friday, April 28, 2006.

We offer our support for the implementation of this proposed rule. As a member of the Oklahoma Area Inter-Tribal Health Board we are aware Tribally Operated Health Boards, the Indian Health Service, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have all done extensive reviews of this rule and potential outcomes. Extending Medicare Like Rates to the Indian Health Service/Tribally Operated Health Programs/Urban Programs (I/T/U) will have a noticeable positive effect on many of the I/T/U programs which operate at approximately 50% of Level of Need Funded presently.

We request immediate publication of this proposed rule without further delay. It is our desire we all move forward in a spirit of cooperation and support with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We ask that the enforcement of this provision be a high priority.

Again, we thank you for this opportunity to comment and do support the proposed rule as published. If you have additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Flanders Byford, Director, Division of Health Programs, at 405-382-3900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EKH', written in a cursive style.

Enoch Kelly Haney, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

EKH/fb

CC: Dr. Charles Grim, Director, Indian Health Service  
Oklahoma City Area Health Board  
Don Perkins, Acting Director, Region VI, DHHS