

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Bemidji Area Indian Health Service

Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Bemidji Area Indian Health Service Circular No. 02-02

POLICY ON OUTSIDE PRESCRIPTIONS

Sec.

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2. Background
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1. **PURPOSE** To establish consistent guidelines for the appropriate filling of outside prescriptions. To provide continuity of pharmaceutical care to patients at the Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities in the Bemidji Area.

2. **BACKGROUND** The Indian Health Service Manual, Chapter 7, Pharmacy, Section 3-7.3D (2a) (v) Non-IHS Prescribers, states the following: "The IHS shall provide pharmaceutical care to eligible American Indian/Alaska Native beneficiaries (as defined by the IHS) when the prescriptions are written by an IHS practitioner or a contract care provider to whom the patient has been referred by the IHS. Prescriptions resulting from patient visits to a non-contract practitioner or to a contract provider without prior IHS referral may be filled by the IHS or at IHS expense only if the drug is included in the facility's formulary and is in stock. A more restrictive policy may be established by each Area Director and shall apply Area-wide."

3. **POLICY** Pharmaceutical care shall be provided by the IHS to eligible American Indian/Alaska Native beneficiaries when the prescriptions are written by an IHS provider or a contract care provider to whom the patient has been referred by the IHS. Outside prescriptions resulting from patient visits to a non-contract/unapproved provider or to a contract provider without prior IHS referral will not be filled.

If a drug prescribed by an IHS-referred provider is not on the formulary at the IHS facility, the pharmacist shall consult with the prescriber and recommend alternative drug therapy that is available. Upon prescriber approval, the recommended alternative drug therapy shall be dispensed. If an alternative formulary drug is not available, procurement shall be according to local non-formulary drug use policies and procedures.

Eligible American Indian/Alaska Native beneficiaries, whose requests for filling of outside prescriptions are declined because of this policy, have the option of

establishing care with an IHS provider according to local Service Unit appointment and access processes.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE** This Policy is effective upon date of signature by the Area Director, BAIHS.

3/12/2002

Date: _____



Kathleen Annette, M.D.
Area Director
Bemidji Area Indian Health Service