



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service
National Supply Service Center
501 N.E. 122nd St., Suite F
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73114-8138

DEC 05 2008

Dear NSSC Customers,

I am pleased to announce the addition of a new branch of the IHS National Supply Service Center, the NSSC Pharmacy Support Branch. As its name suggests, the Pharmacy Support Branch (PSB) was developed to support pharmacy field functions to NSSC stakeholders throughout the Indian Health System. The new NSSC-PSB will oversee the management of the IHS Pharmaceutical Distribution Program, and, more specifically, will focus on providing pharmaceutical pricing, availability, and distribution support to the field. Over the next several days, weeks, and months Indian Health System Pharmacists, along with other providers from various disciplines throughout IHS, will begin to receive routine correspondence from NSSC-PSB staff members who will relay pertinent information related to the products dispensed to American Indian and Alaskan Natives throughout our system.

It is also my pleasure to welcome LT Joe Bryant, Pharm D., BCPS, NCPS, to the NSSC Staff. LT Bryant's official title is Program Specialist / Clinical Pharmacist. This is a new position to the IHS National Supply Service Center. LT Bryant will serve as the Supervisor to the new Pharmacy Support Branch and will be the project coordinator for the IHS to the VA Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor (PPV) contract. The PSB, under LT Bryant's direction, will be the primary point of contact to Area offices and Pharmacy consultants regarding the concerns with the PPV. Below is LT Bryant's contact information:

LT Joe Bryant
501 NE 122nd Street, Suite F
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
Office: 405-951-6090
Joe.bryant@ihs.gov

LT Bryant is a well respected and highly skilled clinical pharmacist who comes from W.W. Hasting Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, OK where he served for the last 4 years. He is a former IHS Pharmacy Practice Resident and is Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy. LT Bryant is also credentialed as an IHS National Clinical Pharmacy Specialist (NCPS) in three Areas of practice (Anticoagulation, Hypertension, and Dyslipidemia), and will continue to utilize his clinical skills in the field periodically. LT Bryant has been involved in pharmaceutical product evaluation at the local, Area, and national level and will serve the field well in his new role at the NSSC.

The NSSC PSB will be working closely with various offices, committees, programs, and consultants throughout the Agency, such as IHS HQ and Area Offices, the National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee (NPTC), IHS Clinical Consultants in the field, and the Division of Diabetes, just to name a few. The PSB will also be reaching out to Tribal programs and listening to their needs and concerns as well as providing excellent customer service and support. The NSSC is committed to providing the information and support necessary for all stakeholders to realize maximum cost avoidance potential on pharmaceuticals and function as efficiently as possible. The development of the Pharmacy Support Branch is a sign of that commitment.

Feel free to contact LT Bryant or myself if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Hayes', is positioned above the printed name.

Rob Hayes, CDR, USPHS
Director
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