



Indian Health Council, Inc.



Update : Direct Services Reimbursement Agreements
between Tribal Health Programs (THP) and Local
Veterans Administration (VA) Healthcare System



Reimbursement Agreement (RA) Summary

- The RA is to facilitate reimbursement to the THP by the VA for eligible healthcare services, specifically Direct Care Services (On-Site Services, Medical, Pharmacy, Etc...) provided by the THP to eligible AI/AN Veterans.



How do you start?

Attach a letter requesting your Tribal Health Program to enter into a Reimbursement Agreement with your local VA health care system.

Send email to : Tribal.agreements@va.gov



Step-by-Step Process

1. *The THP initiates the program request with the CBO (by emailing Tribal.agreements@va.gov) or with their local VAMC.*
2. *The Chief Business Office (CBO) of Purchased Care provides the Provider Orientation and agreement template, site readiness checklist, and other relevant documents to integrate the THP into the reimbursement program.*
3. *CBO Purchased Care alerts the relevant VISN/VAMC and initiates a meeting.*
4. *The VA establishes an Implementation Team to include the CBO Purchased Care Office, VISN and VAMC representatives, VA Contracting Officer, and General Counsel.*
5. *The VA Implementation Team works with THP to develop Sharing Agreement.*
6. *THP works to complete agreement and meet site readiness criteria.*
7. *VA will verify THP readiness.*
8. *VA will route the final documents and coordinate the signatures required for approval.*



Site Readiness

- The following is a set of criteria for each THP site to complete prior to receiving final approval of the Agreement and prior to seeking reimbursement for claims:
 1. Received Enrollment Training.
 2. Provided Certification/ Accreditation. (CMS) certification (Conditions of Participation/Conditions of Coverage) and/or (TJC) or (AAAHHC)
 3. Volume Estimate. Estimate of number of enrolled AI/AN Veterans.
 4. Vendorized in VISTA.
 5. Unique Provider Information.(TIN)
 6. Provider Covered and Non-Covered Services. Must provide a list of covered and non-covered services for the THP (Resource Guide)
 7. EDI Capable & Emdeon Connection – (Electronic Billing)
 8. Unique Claim Fields- (Electronic Billing)



All Documentation needed on VA website

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Website:

<http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/>

Tribal Health Programs Provider Orientation

Template THP Reimbursement Agreement

Training Request – VA Eligibility



VA Eligibility Training

- The VHA Health Eligibility Center (HEC) provides monthly training focused on eligibility, the medical benefits package, and enrollment.
- **Schedule:**
 - –Every third Tuesday Monthly
 - –2pm – 3pm (EST)
 - –Please email Tribal.Agreements@va.gov to receive a calendar invite.



Indian Health Council- VA San Diego Update

- IHC/VA Agreement Signed 6/27/13

Positives

- Have billed and been paid for visits for 4 identified Vets – This is not going to be a huge funder for Indian Health Council
- Have worked with Local Vets Organization – ALVA to increase knowledge of all VA benefits to Vets and to find Vets with no Insurance
- VA Benefits Staff attends ALVA meetings quarterly
- Point-to-Point Contact with VA on benefits



Indian Health Council- VA San Diego Update

Challenges

- VA is not ready for Electronic Billing – Paper Claims, VA deducts \$15 per claim
- VA reimburses before IHS. All other payers must be billed first