JAN 0 6 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to announce that the Indian Health Service (IHS) recently signed an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) authorizing the IHS to use the VA Veterans Health Administration's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP).

With this development, Tribes and Tribal organizations with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) agreements will now be able to access the CMOP through the National Supply Service Center (NSSC). I want to thank Tribal Leaders and Federal staff at HHS and the VA for their work and collaboration that resulted in this agreement. This has been a priority for Tribes and the IHS for the past several years.

The CMOP is a sophisticated mail order pharmacy program that uses seven highly automated facilities to efficiently and safely fill prescriptions for VA beneficiaries. The CMOP utilizes common shipping carriers to deliver filled prescriptions directly to patient homes across the United States. In fiscal year (FY) 2016, approximately 119 million prescriptions were processed by the CMOP, which accounted for approximately 80 percent of all prescriptions dispensed by the VA. The CMOP's focus on quality management, patient safety, customer satisfaction, environmental safety, and infection control was recognized in 2016 by J.D. Powers and Associates U.S. National Pharmacy Study as being "Among the Best" for the eighth consecutive year. For more information about the CMOP and to see a video explaining the CMOP please go to: http://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/CMOP/VA_Mail_Order_Pharmacy.asp.

The IHS began testing CMOP to mail prescriptions to American Indian and Alaskan Native patients in 2010. Since that time, approximately 60 IHS pharmacies have implemented CMOP, leading to the successful delivery of over 2 million prescriptions to IHS patients. The IHS is on track to complete implementation of CMOP in all federally operated IHS pharmacies by the end of FY 2017. Implementation of CMOP at IHS pharmacies has contributed to greater access to care, decreased patient wait times, expanded clinical pharmacy services and programs, and improved the overall pharmacy-patient experience.

To access the CMOP, Tribal pharmacies must use the IHS Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS), meet minimum technical requirements, and agree to the terms, conditions, and responsibilities set forth by CMOP. The IHS, through the NSSC, will act as a payment conduit for orders placed by Tribes and Tribal organizations, in accordance with buyback authority in the ISDEAA [25 U.S.C. § 5388] and in fiscal year appropriation acts. See, e.g., Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-76, 128 Stat. 5 (2014).

Tribes and Tribal organizations will also be required to sign a customer agreement with the IHS NSSC, be responsible for the cost of the drugs purchased and any applicable CMOP fee, and be subject to the same program management and payment intermediary fees required for access to the Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor (PPV) program.

For you reference, I have enclosed a copy of the Interagency Agreement. If you have any questions related to access or eligibility for CMOP at your Tribal pharmacy, please directly contact CAPT Todd Warren, IHS National CMOP Coordinator, by telephone at (605) 390-2371 or by e-mail at todd.warren@ihs.gov.

Thank you for your partnership and collaboration. I look forward to full implementation of this Interagency Agreement.

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/

Mary Smith
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure: Interagency Agreement between Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy and Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service for The Use of the Veterans Health Administration's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy System by the Indian Health Service