

PRC Program Eligibility

Before authorization of PRC payment, an individual must meet PRC eligibility requirements, AND; the Medical Need at the time of service must be within the Medical Priorities currently being funded by the facility.



**For PRC program and eligibility questions,
contact your local Service Unit PRC Staff.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How many PRC priority levels are in the IHS Medical Priorities Plan?

A. There are four priority levels- Priority 1 (Core, Essential), Priority 2 (Intermediate, Necessary), & Priority 3 (Elective, Justifiable) in each of the four categories of care, as well as Priority 4 (Excluded services).

Q. Are there sub-priorities in each of the 4 categories of care?

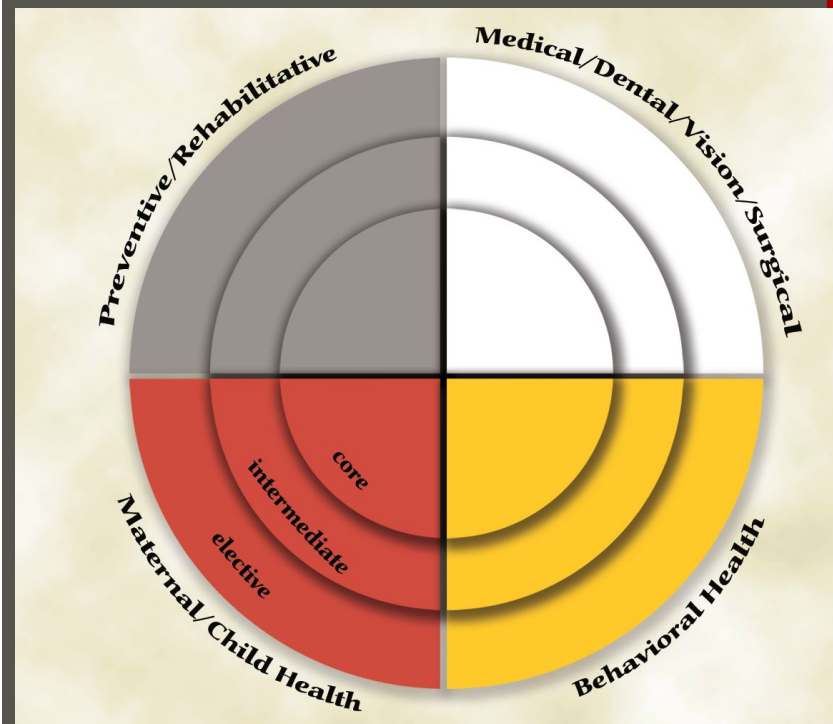
A. No- All of the PRC services listed within a specific category and priority level are considered of equal priority. Also, all four categories (A-D) are considered equal in priority.

Q. Does the new plan change eligibility criteria or administration policies for the PRC program?

A. No- PRC program policies and eligibility criteria remain the same. The only change is the IHS PRC Medical Priorities.

Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

For more details, please refer to the IHS PRC Medical Priorities.



Users Guide

Indian Health Service

PRC Medical Priorities

Purchased Referred Care Program

PRC Categories

Integrated Care

The IHS PRC Medical Priorities ARE designed to better integrate patient care to meet the combined goals of improved patient outcomes & satisfaction.

Referral care is organized into four **equal** categories, in **each** of which are three priorities of care; Core (1), Intermediate (2) & Elective (3).

Priority 4 includes Excluded Services.

Referral Care Categories

A. Preventive and Rehabilitative Services:

Services designed to maintain health, prevent disease or the complications of disease, as well as those services intended to return or maintain a higher level of physical functioning.

B. Medical, Dental, Vision & Surgical Services:

Services provided by medical, dental, vision, or surgical specialists, as well as diagnostic tests, equipment, and supplies, whose purpose is the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

C. Reproductive & Maternal/Child Health Services:

Reproductive and gynecological services as well as services provided to newborns, children, and adolescents.

D. Behavioral Health Services:

Services intended to address the mental health needs of the patient, including treatment of substance abuse disorders.

Master Topics List

A detailed master topics list of PRC referral services is available in the *IHS PRC Medical Priorities*. This list is not comprehensive but was intended to guide prioritization decisions on a case-by-case basis in a way that complements the Category and Priority level definitions.

PRC Priorities

Referral Care Priorities

- **Core services (Priority 1): Essential**

Must meet both criteria.

1. The service must be; **Either** indicated to protect life, limb, or vision in the next 30 days, **Or** indicated for a substantial proportion of patients in the Indian Health Service.
2. The service must be an essential component of the current standard of care for the condition (i.e., you cannot provide appropriate care without the service).

- **Intermediate (Priority 2): Necessary**

Standard of care services that are necessary for the diagnosis and management of chronic and non-emergent acute conditions.

- **Elective (Priority 3): Justifiable**

Clinically justifiable services intended to enhance health and wellbeing.

- **Excluded (Priority 4): Includes cosmetic & experimental services**

Process Logistics

Following appropriate case review, each referral service should be assigned a Priority (1, 2, 3 or 4) **and** a Category (A, B, C, D) for alphanumeric entry into RCIS/EHR in the *Priority* field.

Guidelines for PRC Referrals

- *PRC services are meant to complement, not replace, timely available direct care services.*
- *Services must be deemed clinically essential, necessary or justifiable following appropriate clinical review.*
- *Listed Intermediate/Elective services may be judged Core (when meeting core criteria) on a case-by-case basis as determined by the local PRC Management Committee.*