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 (AAAHC)
  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 – AIVA to increase knowledge of all VA benefits to Vets and to find Vets with no Insurance

• VA Benefits Staff attends AIVA meetings quarterly

• Point-to-Point Contact with VA on benefits
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