Can PRC pay for your referral medical care? Find out in 3 stages.

**Individual Qualifications**

**Stage 1**
You are eligible if:

- a) You are a member or descendent of a Federally recognized Tribe or have close ties acknowledged by your Tribe.

- b) You live on the reservation or, if you live outside the reservation, you live in a county of the PRCDA for your Tribe.

- c) You get prior approval for each case of needed medical service or give notice within 72 hours in emergency cases (30 days for elders & disabled)

* Application is denied.

* There are a few narrowly defined exceptions. Ask PRC staff for more specifics about individual eligibility, PRCDA, or prior notice.

**Relative Medical Priorities**

**Stage 2**
Payment may be approved if:

- a) The health care service that you need is medically necessary
  
  -- as indicated by medical documentation provided

- b) The service is not available at an accessible IHS or Tribal facility

- c) The facility’s PRC committee determines that your case is within the current medical priorities of the facility

  Unfortunately, PRC funds often are not sufficient to pay for all needed services. When this happens, the committee considers each individual’s medical condition to rank cases in relative medical priority. Cases with imminent threats to life, limb, or senses are ranked highest in priority.

- d) PRC funds available are sufficient to pay for the service to be authorized

* Application is deferred.

**Coordination and Payment**

**Stage 3**
Approval, Billing, Payment

- a) You must apply for any alternate resources for which you may be eligible – Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, etc.

- b) A PRC purchase order is issued to a provider authorizing payment for services

- c) IHS or Tribal staff and the authorized provider coordinate your medical care

- d) The authorized provider bills and collects from your alternate resources

- e) The authorized provider bills any unpaid balance to PRC for payment – because PRC is payer of last resort, it pays only for costs not paid by your alternate resources

* Steps are completed in order

Specific services authorized within relative medical priorities may vary from time-to-time in response to changing supply and demand, especially to stretch diminished funds over the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Application is denied.**

**Application is deferred.**

**Provider is paid.**

Generally applicable Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) rules and procedures are shown. Some nuances and exceptions are omitted. Talk to PRC staff if you have questions.