



JUN 29 2018

Indian Health Service
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to inform you that the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) recently amended its agreement for reimbursement for direct health care services to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans at 77 IHS facilities. The amendment: 1) extends the terms of the IHS-VA VHA Reimbursement Agreement an additional 3 years beyond the existing term to a new date of June 30, 2022; and 2) updates a provision to bring the agreement into conformance with VA pharmacy policy related to medications.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. § 1645) authorized agencies to enter into the Reimbursement Agreement on December 5, 2012, to allow the VA to compensate the IHS financially for direct health care services provided to American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans who are eligible for and enrolled in the VHA health care system.

In addition to the 77 IHS facilities that operate under a national IHS-VA reimbursement agreement, the VA has 114 separate reimbursement agreements with Tribes and Tribal Organizations that operate Tribal health programs (THPs). The VHA Office of Community Care administers and facilitates the execution of Tribal health program agreements. This office looks forward to working with you to amend your individual reimbursement agreement for a similar 3-year extension.

Since its inception in 2012, reimbursement agreements with the IHS and THPs resulted in the VA reimbursing \$75.5 million for care to 9,400 VHA-enrolled American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. In fiscal year 2017 alone, the VA reimbursed the IHS and THPs \$17 million for the care of more than 5,000 enrolled American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. For information, including monthly performance reports, please visit the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations online at the Web site that follows:
https://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/reimbursement_agreements.asp.

Thank you for your partnership with the IHS and the VA to improve health care for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans across the country. A copy of the amendment is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Weahkee", is written over a horizontal line.

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Acting Director

Enclosure: IHS-VA Reimbursement Agreement Amendment