



**Better Healthcare for Indian People; Today and Tomorrow**



**Claremore Indian  
Hospital Indian Health  
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918-342-6355**

## **Purchased/Referred Care**



- **Purchase/Referred Care (PRC) includes resources for the provision of medical services outside the scope of the Indian Health Service (IHS) direct care program.**
- **Due to limitation of PRC resources, funds must be managed in accordance with established medical priorities.**
- **PRC resources are used for referred services, "referrals", and emergency services.**

### How Does PRC Work

Requests for PRC are reviewed weekly and ranked according to relative medical priority. Requests are approved for PRC payment to the extent of available resources for the review period. Referrals may be approved for payment, or deferred due to limitation of resources. The PRC office shall make appointments for approved referrals.

Referrals are written by IHS providers for services determined medically necessary. However, a referral does not constitute authorization for payment. Patients must meet eligibility, notification, pre-authorization, and alternate resource requirements of the IHS-PRC program.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for PRC funding, you must meet all of the 6 requirements listed below.

You must be a member of, or descendent of a federally recognized Indian tribe and provide appropriate documentation such as a Certificate of Indian Blood (CDIB) or birth certificate reflecting decedency from an otherwise enrolled tribal member. A non-Indian pregnant woman with an eligible Indian's child is eligible for direct and PRC care during pregnancy and for 6 weeks through post partum for OB related care.

You must reside on a permanent basis within the Oklahoma Area PRC Service Delivery Area that includes the state of Oklahoma and the following counties in Kansas: Brown, Doniphan, Douglas, Jackson; and Richardson County in Nebraska.

The following individuals are also eligible:

- A) Full-time boarding school, college, vocational, or other academic students who are living away from the Service Delivery Area specifically for the purpose of education. Haskell Service Unit covers all full time students at Haskell Indian Nations University.
- B) A person who is temporarily away from the Service Delivery Area due to travel, employment, etc.
- C) Non-Indian adopted, step children, and foster children of an otherwise eligible Indian parent. Indian children placed in foster care away from the Service Delivery Area by order of a court of competent jurisdiction and who were eligible for PRC at the time of the court order shall continue to be eligible.

### Referrals

Payment for medical care outside an IHS facility can only be authorized by a PRC official if funds are available. All referrals are date specific and any further treatment shall require prior authorization for payment by PRC. The PRC referral is for **ONE VISIT**.

Failure to cancel appointments and to access care authorized/appointed by the PRC Program shall be determined failure to exhaust an otherwise available alternate resource. This may result in denial of PRC payment for any services described in the referral and not appointed by PRC. The treating PRC referral provider may notify the referring IHS provider by telephone of any urgent care requirements and Fax/Email/Mail consultation/finding results to the referring provider. Patients are to contact their referring IHS provider regarding any need for follow up care.

### Appointments

It is important that all referral appointments are kept. Patients are asked to cancel any appointments at least 3 days prior to the scheduled appointment date by a telephone call to PRC. Any changes to the appointment must be made by the PRC staff in order to ensure PRC authorization for payment. The patient may, however, elect to reschedule such services with no involvement of PRC and assume financial responsibility for payment of those services. Patients are to take alternate resources identification with them to their appointment to ensure providers have accurate and appropriate billing information.

### Alternate Resources

PRC is the payer of last resort. You must apply for funding with all available resources to you, such as private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Workers Compensation, Vocational Rehabilitation. Auto insurance, and other personal injury or liability insurance.

Transfers  
Once discharged from the facility IHS had transferred a patient to and the treating doctor asks to see you again for a follow-up patient must come back to an IHS facility for a referral.

### Emergency Services

You must contact PRC within 72 hours of receiving emergency care at a non-Indian Health Service facility. For an elderly or disabled person receiving emergency care, this may be extended to 30 days. If a patient is unable to contact PRC, a person acting on their behalf must contact PRC within the same time limits. All non-emergency care must be pre-authorized by PRC before receiving medical treatment.

### Claims Coordination

Patients are to provide the PRC Office copies of the following documents for claims processing:

- Itemized Bills
- Alternate resource payment information
- Explanation of Benefits Report
- Remittance Statements/Reports
- Other documentation of payments
- Responses to application for alternate resources
- Collection notices
- Medical Records

### Denials

If your request for PRC funding is denied, you will receive a letter informing you of the denial. Sometimes all that is needed is more information. If you already went to a non-Indian Health Service provider for your care a letter of denial for payment will also be sent to them. You have 30 days to request reconsideration in writing. Your letter should be addressed to the PRC listed at the bottom of the denial letter.

Contact # is 918-342-6355