

Tribal Health Reimbursement Agreement Orientation Brief

Veteran Affairs Sharing Agreement Program with Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health Programs (THP)

July 2014

Agenda

- IHS and THP Milestones
- Reimbursement Agreement Key Definitions
- Benefits
- Reimbursement Agreement Payment Methodologies
- IHS and THP Locations in the VISNs
- THP Agreement Implementation Process
- VHA Health Eligibility Center Training
- Implementation Timeline
- Next Steps
- VA Office of Tribal Government Internet Site

Indian Health Service & Tribal Health Reimbursement Milestones

- October 1, 2010: the VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Petzel, and the IHS Director, Dr. Roubideaux, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- March – May 2012: VA and IHS and Tribal Health Programs (THP) initiated tribal consultation on a draft national agreement.
- June 2012: Confirmed approach: one National Agreement with IHS and individual sharing agreements under 38 USC 8153 for Tribal Health Programs due to their sovereign nature.
- August 24, 2012: Dr. Petzel signed and distributed the Dear Tribal Leader Letter with program guidance.
- December 5, 2012: VA-IHS National Agreement signed.
- Ongoing coordination in onboarding THPs.

The MOU and Agreements:

- ✓ Promotes quality health care through collaborative relationships and agreements
- ✓ Focuses on increasing coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans

Benefits

- **Medical Benefits Package** – VA will reimburse for direct care services provided under the Medical Benefits package available to eligible Veterans under 38 CFR § 17.38.
- **Choice of care provider** – Eligible AI/AN Veterans can choose to receive their health care from the IHS/THP facility and/or VA Medical Center (VAMC). No pre-authorization by VA will be required for direct care services provided to eligible AI/AN Veterans if care is received at the IHS/THP facility.
- **Pharmacy Options** – IHS/THP health care facilities will be reimbursed when providing a 30-day supply of outpatient medications to eligible AI/AN Veterans. After the initial 30-day supply, eligible AI/AN Veterans may obtain prescriptions using the VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) for routine, long-term outpatient medication.
- **No Copayment** – Pursuant to section 405(c) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), VA copayments do not apply to direct care services provided by the IHS/THP facility to eligible AI/AN Veterans under the National Agreement or local reimbursement agreements.
- **Third Party Billing** – Pursuant to section 405(c) of IHCIA, IHS/THP health care facilities will bill all third party payers, as permissible by law, prior to billing VA.

Reimbursement Agreement Key Definitions

- Eligible American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veteran is a Veteran who is
 - (1) eligible for services from IHS or THP in accordance with 42 C.F.R. Part 136 and
 - (2) is enrolled in VA's system of patient enrollment in accordance with section 4.6 of the THP Agreement Template.
- Direct Care Services means any eligible service that is provided directly by THP at the THP facility(ies).
 - Direct care services does not include care or service referred or provided outside the THP facility(ies) through a contract established by THP .

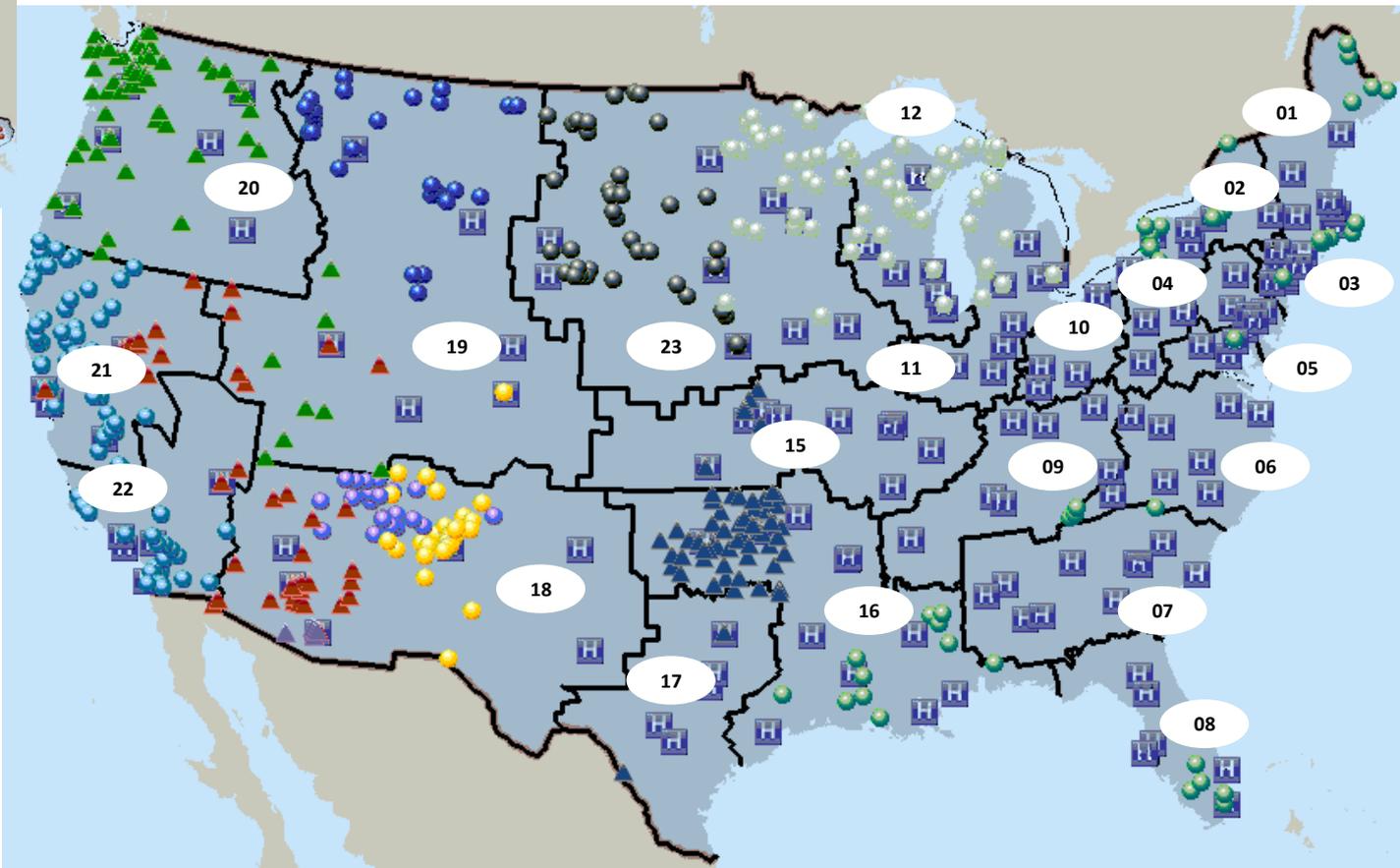
Reimbursement Agreement Payment Methodologies

- Direct Care Services will be reimbursed according to the following payment methods and rates:
 - Inpatient hospital services are based on Medicare Inpatient Prospective Patient System.
 - Outpatient services will be based on the IHS All Inclusive Rate posted in the Federal Register annually.
 - Critical Access Hospitals will be reimbursed based on reasonable cost (101% of billed charges per Medicare).
 - Ambulatory Surgical Services will be reimbursed at Medicare rates.
- Additionally, claims will be reduced by \$15 on claims and paper claims will be reduced by \$15. This helps cover the administrative processing costs of these unique claims

Reimbursement Agreements vs. MOUs

- **Reimbursement agreements:**
 - Only apply to AI/AN Veterans receiving direct care services
 - Do **not** relate to existing MOUs or sharing agreements in place, or being negotiated with VA
 - Program guidance and authorities for these agreements **do not apply** to other agreements or MOUs you may have in progress and/or in place
 - While some VAMC staff involved with Reimbursement Agreements might also be the points of contact for other MOU development efforts, the efforts should be **considered separate and distinct**

IHS and VAMC Locations



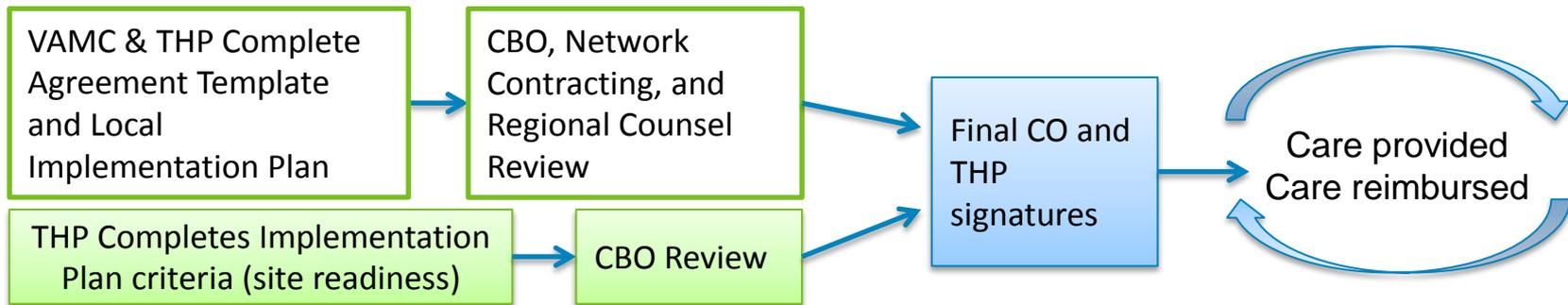
 VAMC

Indian Health Services Area

-  Aberdeen
-  Alaska
-  Albuquerque
-  Bemidji
-  Billings
-  California
-  Nashville
-  Navajo
-  Oklahoma City
-  Phoenix
-  Portland
-  Tucson



Basic THP Process for Establishing Agreements



- Using the agreement template, the VAMC, THP, and Contracting Officer work together to complete the draft reimbursement agreement.
- The national template shall always be used.
- Concurrently, the THP works to satisfy local implementation criteria.
- Once the draft is complete, it will be reviewed by CBO, Network Contracting Office and Regional Counsel, respectively.
- After final signatures and receipt of the letter to proceed, reimbursement for direct care can commence.

Local Implementation Plan (1 of 2)



VA Medical Center

and

Tribal Health Program

Local Implementation Plan

2.0 Implementation Plan

2.1 Site Readiness Milestones and Checklist



Milestone	Description	Status and Notes	Completion Date
Joint Orientation Held	Local THP and VA representatives took part in a joint orientation call		
Certification/ Accreditation Submitted	THP provided evidence of the Certification/ Accreditation that meets reimbursement agreement criteria		
VA Enrollment Training Attended	THP facility members participated in the VHA HEC Eligibility and Enrollment Training		
Veteran Volume Estimate Submitted	THP submitted estimates of their known Veteran population		
Emdeon Registration Complete (if applicable)	THP registers with Emdeon clearinghouse to enable the processing of electronic claims (not applicable if not using paper claims initially)		
VISN 20 Vendor Demographic Form completed/ submitted	VISN 20 Vendor Demographic Form completed and submitted back to tribal.agreements@va.gov		
VA Form 10091 completed/ submitted	FMS Vendor File Request Form Payee/Vendor Information section completed and submitted back to tribal.agreements@va.gov		
W9 completed/ submitted	Taxpayer Identification (W9) form completed and submitted back to tribal.agreements@va.gov		

Local Implementation Plan (2 of 2)

Services Inventory:

Tribal Health Program	
Direct care services include:	This THP facility typically uses Contract Healthcare Services for the following services:
•	•

All claims should go to the V20 Network Payment Center. Claims should NOT go to the local VAMC.

Key Points of Contact:

THP	Healthcare Facility Name:	
	Healthcare Facility Address:	
	Healthcare Facility Phone:	
	Healthcare Facility Director:	
	Healthcare Facility Agreement Manager:	
	Additional POCs:	
VA	Local VAMC Name:	
	Local VAMC Address:	
	Local VAMC Phone:	
	Local VAMC Director:	
	Local VAMC Agreement Manager:	
	Local VAMC Station #:	
	Local VAMC Benefits Coordinator	
	Regional Rural Health Representative:	
	Regional Tribal Government Relations Representative:	
	Claims Payment Center Address:	V20NPC – THP PO Box 1035 Mail Stop: 10N20 Portland, OR 97207
	Claims Payment Center Call Center:	(855) 331-5560
	Claims Payment Center Manager:	Kerry Paperman; Kerry.Paperman@va.gov 360-696-4061 x31673
Additional POCs:		

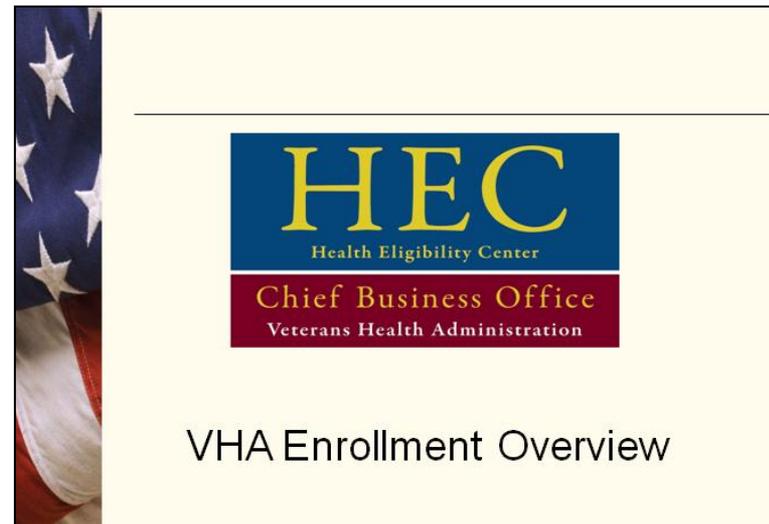
VHA Health Eligibility Center Training

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.

Next Steps

- The THP and VAMC should have follow-on discussions to complete the THP Agreement Template.
- The THP should work to meet all site readiness criteria as laid out in the site implementation plan.
- Care for non-AI/AN Veterans is not included in the VA-THP Reimbursement Agreement. If a need exists to provide care for non-AI/AN Veterans , this should be established with your local VAMC based on Non-VA Care Program criteria.

Further Information

All documentation on how to establish agreements are housed at VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Website.

<http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/>

For more information on getting started with Tribal Health Program agreements, send an e-mail to

tribal.agreements@va.gov

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website for the Office of Tribal Government Relations. The header includes the VA logo and the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Veteran Services, Business, About VA, Media Room, Locations, and Contact Us. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large photo of a group of people, with a caption below it: "Cherokee, NC American Indian Veterans Color Guard WWII Code Talker". To the right of the photo is a section titled "Eastern Region Training Summit" with a brief description. Below the photo is a section titled "2012 VA Tribal Consultation Reports" with links to PDF documents for Washington, DC and Anchorage, AK; Lincoln, Nebraska and Denver, Colorado. Below that is a section for the "June 2013 Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter" with a download link. In the right sidebar, there is a section titled "CONNECT WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT" with a list of links. The link "Establishing a Reimbursement Agreement" is circled in red, and a blue arrow points from the text on the left to this link.