



Tribal Technical Advisory Group



To the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

c/o National Indian Health Board | 50 F Street NW | Washington, DC 20001 | (202) 507-4070 | (202) 507-4071 fax

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Submitted via regulations.gov

Re: Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Generic Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request (90 FR 4744)

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

On behalf of the CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG), I write to provide support for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notice on the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Generic Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request regarding the form CMS-10398 #91, State Plan Amendment (SPA) Template for Medicaid Clinic Benefit. The TTAG leadership is grateful for the historic CY2025 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) final rule and released SPA template for Medicaid Clinic Benefit that amends clinic regulations to allow for the reimbursement of clinic benefit services provided outside the four walls for Tribal and IHS facilities with the option for States to opt in to cover clinic services furnished outside the "four walls" of behavioral health clinics or clinics located in rural areas.

Upon review of the SPA template, the TTAG leadership supports amendments made to Section 1905 (a) (9) Clinic Services language which includes sections on General Assurances; Types of Clinic Services and Limitations in Amount, Duration, or Scope; Four Walls Exceptions, and; Additional Benefit Description. As written, the template encapsulates the services provided by IHS and Tribal clinics to work congruently with state Medicaid agencies.

For your awareness, the Federal Register on CMS-1809-FC, section XVII Medicaid Clinic Services Four Walls Exceptions has a typo on page 94442, which states "\$2.8 million AI/ANs who are eligible for services from IHS" when it should state, "2.8 million AI/ANs who are eligible for services from IHS."

We again thank CMS for drafting the SPA template for the Medicaid Clinic Benefit. This proposed template will ensure IHS and Tribal clinics are appropriately reimbursed for services delivered to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) beneficiaries especially in rural areas, health provider-shortage areas, and school-based health centers. This historic amendment will improve the health status of AI/AN beneficiaries for generations to come.

CMS TTAG Letter to CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Ron Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W." followed by "Ron" and "Allen".

W. Ron Allen, CMS TTAG Chair
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Chairman/CEO