Health Care Reform Fact Sheet

Implementation Update

Since passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), the National Indian Health Board has been working with the Administration, Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders to implement the ACA and IHCIA.

This includes responding to a “Dear Tribal Leader letter” from Indian Health Service and Health and Human Services Intergovernmental Affairs dated May 12, 2010 to discuss priorities for implementation, as well as providing regular updates to Tribal leaders on communications from the Administration on upcoming Tribal consultations. This information can be found in the “Consultation” section of www.nihb.org.

On July 22, 2010, the Director of the Indian Health Service released a “Dear Tribal Leader letter” to update Tribes on which provisions of the IHCIA were effective immediately upon passage. A copy of that letter is available through the Director’s corner at www.ihs.gov or on www.nihb.org.

It is expected that in the next few months, additional consultations will occur on specific provisions. These could include: long-term care; implementing state-exchanges and Federal Employee Health Benefits, and others.

The National Indian Health Board will continue to provide up-to-date information to Indian Country on the implementation of the ACA and IHCIA. Visit the National Indian Health Board’s Indian Health Reform Resource Center at: www.nihb.org/indianhealthreform.

Health Reform Milestones and Implementation Activities - Selected Dates

Several milestones and activities have occurred in 2010. These include:

March 2010
• Small business tax credits for 2010 (up to 35% of premium contributions)
• For Medicare beneficiaries, $250 rebate to cover expenditures in ‘donut hole’
• Free preventive care under Medicare

April 2010
• States have option of expanding Medicaid coverage to adults without dependent children

June 2010
• Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan Program made available to uninsured September 23, 2010 (for plans issued after this date)
• Prohibition on discrimination against children with pre-existing conditions
• Block health plans from retroactively denying coverage (“rescissions”)
• No lifetime limits on coverage
• Free preventive care
• Coverage of young adults up to their 26th birthday on parent’s plan

September 2010
• No cost-sharing for preventive benefits under new insurance plans

October 2010
• NIHB/NCAI Tribal conference call re: FEHBP option
• Tribal Technical Advisory Group submits letter to OCIIO on definition of Indian,
NIHB passes resolution on definition of Indian

November 2010
• IHS long-term care conference in Washington, DC
• 5th: Responses due to OPM/IHS regarding October 5 letter/survey of Tribes and
Tribal organizations participation in FEHBP
• TTAG (Tribal Technical Advisory Group) face-to-face meeting in Washington, DC
• Deadline for comments on HHS Request for Comments on “Review and Approval
Process for Section 1115 Demonstrations”
• (date to be set): Tribal Consultation on ACA Exchange-related provisions
January 2011
• Health plans in the individual market required to spend at least 80 percent of
premiums on medical services; plans in the large group market to spend at least
85 percent on medical care

For more information, or questions, contact NIHB Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper,
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