

MMPC and TTAG's Role in Tribal Policy and Healthcare Advocacy

Yvonne Myers
ACA/Medicaid Consultant
Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services



What is the MMPC?

- The Medicare, Medicaid and Health Reform Policy Committee (MMPC) is a standing committee of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). The committee is chaired by a member of the NIHB Board of Directors.



Who is Involved?

- Membership in MMPC is open to individuals authorized to represent a Tribe; Tribal Organization; Urban Indian Program; or Indian Health Service (IHS).
- Provides technical support to the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG).
- TTAG advises the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on Indian issues related to Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and any other health care program funded by CMS.



What does the MMPC do?

- MMPC acts as a national forum to identify, discuss, advise and act on issues that will improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN).
- Has the ability to pool expertise in Indian health care from across the country in order to develop information and recommendations on current issues.



When does MMPC Meet?

- Monthly teleconferences and three (3) annual Face to Face meetings to analyze issues and develop consensus on Tribal positions and strategies.
- Meetings align with the TTAG meetings in order for members to prepare for those conversations with CMS.
- If you would like more information, please contact NIHB's Federal Relations Department at federalrelations@nihb.org.



Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG)

Membership:

- Principal member and alternate from IHS, and from each of the twelve (12) IHS service areas.
- In addition, there is representation from the DC-based advocacy organizations: NIHB, NCAI, TSGAC, and NCUIH



Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG)

Meetings:

- Three (3) in-person meetings per year plus monthly teleconferences. Only members or their alternates are permitted to speak.
- Funding: Federal funding for either TTAG principal member or alternate member for travel & accommodations.



Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG)

Activities:

- The TTAG serves as an advisory committee to CMS on important health care matters associated with Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs.



TTAG Subcommittees

- Policy
- Behavioral Health
- CMS Tribal Consultation
- Data
- Waivers
- HR1/One Big Beautiful Bill
- Long Term Care Support and Services
- Managed Care
- Outreach and Education
- Redetermination & Eligibility



TTAG – Medicaid Administrative Priorities

- Shield IHCP's from state benefit cuts or enrollment limitation.
- CMS enforcement of state compliance in the administration of Medicaid Managed Care (special protections for AI/AN enrollees and IHCPs, claims processing, paying AIR where appropriate.)
- 431.12 CFR rule – Medicaid Advisory Committee – Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) – create requirement to include Tribal reps on the state Committees
- Medicaid programs to publish searchable and regularly updated provider directory
- Advocate for the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) to create a Tribal Subcommittee



TTAG Administrative Priorities - Medicare

- Make IHS Outpatient Encounter Rate Available to all Indian Outpatient Programs
- Part C – Payment by Medicare Advantage Plans at OMB Rate and Education to Prevent Predatory Enrollment Practices
- Revise and expand the Medicare Part D addendum to cover all issuers, including PBMs and prohibit reduction in reimbursements due to accessing discount pharmaceutical programs.
- Request CMS & IHS develop a joint document to serve as an updated IHS Updated Creditable Coverage Letter for Medicare Part D – Currently under review at IHS



TTAG Administrative Priorities - Medicare

- Exempt ITU DME Suppliers from Competitive Bidding Process - COMPLETED
- Increase Flexibility in Medicare Definition of Telemedicine Services and reinstate OMB rate for off-side telemedicine visit. – Extended through December 31, 2027



TTAG Legislative Priorities

- MEDICAID:
 - Authorize Medicaid reimbursement for Qualified Indian Provider Services
 - 100% FMAP for UIOs
- MEDICARE:
 - Eliminate Medicare Part B Premiums & Deductibles for IHS beneficiaries and ensure full Medicare reimbursement for IHCPs



TTAG Legislative Priorities

- MEDICARE

- Make the IHS Outpatient Encounter Rate Available to all Indian Outpatient Programs Who Request It. Expand Medicare services and provider types to include Long Term Care
- Authorize new Tribal Medicare provider types (Pharmacists, Certified community Health Aides and Practitioners (CHA/Ps), Behavioral Health Aides and Practitioners (BHA/Ps) and Dental Health Aides Therapists (DHATs)



TTAG Legislative Priorities

- HHS Office of Inspector General
 - Indian Safe Harbor to Anti-Kickback Statute

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION **HEALTH SERVICES**



HR1/One Big Beautiful Bill

- Also referred to as the Working Families Tax Cut Legislation
- Subcommittee is working with CMS on the Tribal Guidance to be issued to Medicaid State agencies.
- AI/AN Exemptions
 - Community Engagement/Work Requirements
 - 6-month Redetermination



Policy Makes a Difference!

- Through the efforts of ITU policy staff, we have made significant progress at the local, state and national levels.
- The ACA policy work assured AI/AN members are entitled to special enrollments all year round, special cost sharing benefits, and the ability to maximize revenue and benefits for both ITUs and members.
- HR1 – Tribal exemptions and participating in creation of Tribal guidance to State Medicaid agencies.
- Special thanks to all of my colleagues for their tremendous contributions and knowledge.



Questions?

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION **HEALTH SERVICES**



Contact Information

Yvonne Myers, ACA/Medicaid Consultant
Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services

Ymyers@potawatomi.org

Office: 405-964-4123

Cell: 405-824-4402

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION **HEALTH SERVICES**

