



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary
Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H, Director

October 23, 2021

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 21-23: Transportation Coverage

Dear Tribal Leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Providers, and Other Interested Parties:

Seeking advice and comments from New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers is an important component of the government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico. In accordance with the New Mexico Human Services Department's (HSD's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting comments until **5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT), November 23, 2021**, regarding proposed changes to transportation coverage.

Effective December 1, 2021 the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) is updating its state plan to conform with regulatory requirements for the assurance of transportation. Language has been added to specify that the statutory minimum requirements for non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) providers and individual drivers are satisfied. The changes are being made in accordance with the statutory provisions added by section 209 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

Tribal Impact

There is no impact to Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers. The proposed changes are to clarify that New Mexico Medicaid is in compliance with federal requirements.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and their healthcare providers may view the proposed changes, on the HSD webpage at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> **Tribal Notification 21-23.**

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) November 23, 2021. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 670-8067 or by email at: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us. All written comments received will be posted on the HSD website at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> along with this notification letter. The public posting will include the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

Tribal Leadership may request a government-to-government consultation by November 23, 2021. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,



Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H.
State Medicaid Director