



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

September 4, 2020

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 20-22: Nursing Facility Payment

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. This letter is to inform you that the Human Services Department (HSD), through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting written comments until **5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) October 3, 2020**, regarding State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0018 Nursing Facility Payment.

HSD is proposing to discontinue increased rates for nursing facilities that are treating Medicaid members who test positive for COVID-19. The rate increase is equal to 30% of the individual facility's high NF rate. The increased rates were implemented temporarily to assist Nursing Facilities during the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Tribal Impact

HSD does not anticipate a financial impact to Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos or their health care providers as they will continue to be reimbursed at the OMB rate.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and Tribal health care providers may view the proposed changes on Nursing Facilities Payment on the HSD website at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx>, Tribal Notification **20-22**.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) on October 3, 2020. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 827-3122 or by email to Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us. All written comments received will be posted on the HSD website at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> 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 October 3, 2020.
This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 827-3122.

Sincerely,



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