



REVISED FROM PREVIOUS 10/20/2010 ANNOUNCEMENT

October 22, 2010

TO: Tribal Leaders  
Tribal Program Staff  
Urban Indian Programs  
Indian Health Services  
National Indian Organizations

FROM: Director, Tribal Affairs Group, Office of External Affairs and Beneficiary Services,  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Over the next several months, the Tribal Affairs Group (TAG) within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is planning All Tribes' Calls to present information on certain provisions in the Affordable Care Act that involve CMS programs. The TAG (working with the CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group, the Indian Health Service, and Center for Medicaid, CHIP, Surveys and Certification) is planning scheduled conference calls with tribal leaders, their designees, urban Indian programs and IHS staff on CMS related Affordable Care Act provisions impacting AI/AN beneficiaries and Indian health programs. The focus of these calls will be listening sessions and opportunities for participants to learn and understand the technical and operational nature of the CMS related provisions.

The All Tribes' Calls will be held on a bi-weekly basis on Fridays, at 1 – 2 pm ET. The topics for the calls will be identified and developed as the Affordable Care Act is implemented and information will be presented by subject matter experts using cleared materials.

The CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group (CMS TTAG) has established an Affordable Care Act policy subcommittee to provide advice and input to CMS. The CMS TTAG and its subcommittee will serve as an important resource to CMS in identifying provisions and in defining issues as we move forward in implementing the Act. In addition to participating in the calls and sharing your ideas and questions directly with CMS, please feel free to provide them to your TTAG representative.

The TAG is proposing a first series of All Tribes' Calls beginning in October through December. The toll-free number for the calls is **1-888-450-4823 Passcode: 750568**. Please plan to call in approximately fifteen minutes prior to the call and identify yourself by name and tribe. There will be limited lines available so to the extent possible, please share a phone line. Following each call, there will be a summary of the provisions and highlights of the major issues and questions asked on each call. This information will be posted at the CMS AI/AN webpage <http://www.cms.gov/center/ir.asp> and disseminated via email.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>: 1 – 2pm ET

The first call will be an introductory call to explain the All Tribes' Calls format and to obtain advice and input from participants about the conference call process. The CMS calls are intended to be technical listening sessions on those CMS related provisions in the Affordable Care Act. CMS is looking for feedback on what CMS provisions are important to include on future calls. We are seeking input on how to make these calls successful, and the process for obtaining additional tribal input and communicating back to Indian Country after each call. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

November 5<sup>th</sup>: 1-2 pm ET

10221: Indian Health Care Improvement Act, S. 1790

S.1790, Section 134: Methods to Increase Clinical Recruitment and Retention Issues [amends section 221: Licensing, Indian Health Care Improvement Act]

S. 1790, Section 156: Nondiscrimination under Federal Health Care Programs in Qualifications for Reimbursement for Services [new section 408, Indian Health Care Improvement Act]

November 19<sup>th</sup>: 1-2 pm ET

- 2401 Community First Choice
- 2402a Oversight & Administration of HCBS
- 2402b Removal of Barriers to Providing Home and Community-Based Services
- 2403 Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration (GRANTS)
- 2405 Funding to Expand State Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- 10202 Balancing Incentive Program for HCBS
- 6407 Home Health face-to-face encounters

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: 1-2 pm ET

10221: Indian Health Care Improvement Act, S. 1790

S. 1790, Section 151: Treatment of Payments under the Social Security Act Health Benefits Programs [amends section 401, Indian Health Care Improvement Act]

S. 1790, Section 153: Grants to and Contracts with the Service, Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations to Facilitate Outreach, Enrollment, and Coverage of Indians under the Social Security Act Health Benefit Programs and Other Health Benefits Programs [amends section 404, Indian Health Care Improvement Act]

We look forward to your participation on the calls and working with you to implement the CMS related provisions of the Affordable Care Act having impact on AI/AN beneficiaries and Indian health programs.

If you have questions or concerns about the All Tribes' Calls, please contact Bonnie Hillsberg, Special Assistant, TAG/CMS at 410-786-2612 or [bonnie.hillsberg@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:bonnie.hillsberg@cms.hhs.gov).