

Summary of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
All Tribes Conference Call on the Implementation of the  
Affordable Care Act  
October 22, 2010

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is commencing a series of biweekly teleconferences to explore issues related to the impact of health care reform on Indian Country. The first teleconference, held on October 22, 2010, sought to explain the format of the All Tribes Conference Calls and solicit feedback from participants about the process. Kitty Marx, the Director of the Tribal Affairs Group (TAG), opened the call with a review of the design and purpose of the All Tribes Call. The calls will be held on a bi-weekly basis on Fridays from 1:00 to 2:00 PM (ET). The call-number (1-888-450-4823) and passcode (750568) will be used in all the calls. Calls have been scheduled for the remaining months of 2010 with a new schedule of calls anticipated in January 2011.

The CMS technical calls are part of and complement the effort of the Department of Health and Human Service/Intergovernmental Affairs (HHS/IGA) to consult with tribal leaders through the HHS/IGA monthly conference calls. The CMS calls are not considered consultation but rather technical listening sessions on CMS related provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Many of the CMS related provisions are technical and operational in nature. On each of the calls, CMS subject matter experts will present information on certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The calls will then entertain comments and questions. The purpose of the calls is to solicit input from Indian Health Service (IHS), tribal, and urban programs on how the provisions of the ACA impact American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) beneficiaries and the operation of the Indian health program delivery system. After each call, CMS, working with its contractor, Kauffman & Associates, Inc. (KAI), will make available a summary of the call. These summaries will be posted on the CMS AI/AN website page at: <http://www.cms.gov/center/ir.asp>. In addition, TAG has established a mailbox for participants on the calls to submit additional questions, feedback, and suggestions for future topics to be discussed on the calls. That mailbox is [tribalaffairs@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:tribalaffairs@cms.hhs.gov)

Callers were supportive of the proposed format and cited the success of last year's CMS All Tribes calls for the Children's Health Insurance Program Authorization (CHIPRA) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in providing input for the development of guidance and regulations. Callers requested that meeting conveners accept comments and suggestions between meetings and make these comments available so participants could respond to questions raised between calls. They additionally requested that in addition to listing the bill sections or topics prior to the call, that some additional information about the purpose or objectives of the section be provided.

Callers asked that future calls address long-term care in Indian Country, behavioral health, the rescheduling of Medicare Part D, and an overview of health care reform.