

PROVIDER BULLETIN NO. 10-14

DATE: April 29, 2010

TO: All Medicaid Providers

FROM: Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director 
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

BY: Sam Kaplan, Operations Unit Manager
Margaret Booth, Physical Health Services Unit Manager

RE: ARRA Protections for Indians

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE, CLINICAL AND BILLING STAFF

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is a federal law that was passed in February 2009. We would like to remind you that, effective July 1, 2009, ARRA provided cost-sharing protections for Indians in Medicaid.

ARRA precludes States from imposing Medicaid cost-sharing on Indian applicants and participants served by Indian health providers, and providers of contract health services (CHS) under a referral from an Indian health provider, as set forth below.

Providers may not bill an Indian for enrollment fees, premiums, or similar charges if they are furnished an item or service by an Indian health care provider, Indian Health Service (HIS), an Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or Urban Indian Organization (UM) or through referral under Contract Health Services (CHS).

Providers may not bill an Indian for deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, or similar charges for any item or service covered by Medicaid if the Indian is furnished the item or service directly by an Indian health care provider, I/T/U or through CHS.

ARRA also prohibits any reduction in payment that is due under Medicaid to the I/T/U or to a health care provider through referral under CHS for furnishing an item or service to an Indian. The State must pay these providers the full Medicaid payment rate for furnishing the item or service. Their payments may not be reduced by the amount of any enrollment fee, premium, deduction, copayment, or similar charge that otherwise would be due from the Indian.

Premiums and cost-sharing exemptions for Indians under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are not affected by ARRA.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Sam Kaplan at sam.kaplanaebraska.gov or 402-471-9337 or Margaret Booth at margaret.booth@nebraska.gov or 402-471-9380.