

4.7.21 - NE Tribal/Medicaid Monthly Call Agenda

Conference Access Number **(888) 820-1398**

Attendee Code- **7300221**

Present: Jacob Kawamoto, Catherine Gekas Steeby, Danielle Trejo, Chris Morton, Stacy Schenk, LeAnn Ortmeier UHC, Jenn Nelson UHC, Ricky Ann Fletcher MCNA, Jenny Cupak HB, Jennifer Newcombe NTC, Stacey Shuman CMS, Laura Peck, Minnie Hamilton, Lacie Ward, Ariel Earth (Winnebago), Renee Torrez (Omaha), Janelle Lee

SPA/Waiver Updates

- SPA
 - Disaster Relief SPAs – Tribal Notices Sent (3/15/21 & 3/16/21)
 - Nursing Facility Payments Jan 1 – June 30, 2021
 - The proposed amendment will provide nursing facilities an additional \$20 per day payment per Medicaid beneficiary effective from the dates of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.
 - Vaccine Administration – No Tribal Impact
 - 2021 HCPCS File – Tribal Notice Sent (3/4/21)
 - The proposed amendment will not impact the tribes because Indian Health Service benefits are reimbursed on encounter rates, not the fee schedule.
- Waiver Authority
 - HCBS Waiver for Aged and Adults and Children with Disabilities (AD)
 - Tribal Notice Sent 3/3/21

Additional Items

- Covering Indian Country – Mailing List from CMS
 - Sign up at: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/American-Indian-Alaska-Native/AIAN/Outreach-and-Education/medicare-for-american-indians-alaska-natives>
- Nursing/Provider Utilization
 - At last month's monthly Tribal/Medicaid call, questions and discussion arose around billing at the encounter rate for services provided by RNs. The DHHS team looked into this and checked with leadership and the State Plan. They determined that since RNs are not included in the list of providers on the State Plan encounter page, if tribes are utilizing RNs only for services provided, this would not be able to be billed at the encounter rate.
 - However, this prompted discussions around the potential for a Disaster Relief SPA (eSPA) to address this issue during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). DHHS will be submitting an eSPA to allow for tribes to be reimbursed at the encounter rate for COVID testing and vaccine administration services provided by RNs.

- DHHS also wants to discuss with the Tribes and understand how RNs are utilized in providing services at tribal health facilities. The agency wants to make sure there is clear guidance and clear authority around this topic. Outside of the COVID PHE:
 - How often are the Tribes utilizing RNs to provide services on their own?
 - What does the role of RNs look like when it comes to services administered, and is it worth discussions to potentially pursue a permanent change to the NE State Plan to allow RNs to provide services that could be reimbursed at the AIR?
 - To provide any feedback, please send it to Jacob at:
jacob.kawamoto@nebraska.gov
- Question from UHC: Do RNs need a Medicaid Provider ID number in order to bill these services and identify them for the encounter rate?
 - Lacie Ward added that RNs do not have a Medicaid Provider ID.
 - A: DHHS is still discussing how to operationalize this, but is looking at language that would allow it. Will release a Tribal Impact Summary, billing instructions and a Provider Bulletin for this.
- Q: What would be the effective date for this?
 - A: COVID testing would go back to 12/1/20
COVID vaccine administration would go back to 4/1/21
- Please encourage participation in the new monthly Tribal Benefit and Case Care Coordinators meetings! For more information about this, you can contact Jacob at:
jacob.kawamoto@nebraska.gov