

Traditional Healing 1115 Waiver Proposal

Presented to: Native American Legislative Liaison Committee
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Background

- In 2016, Arizona's Medicaid Department submitted an 1115 Medicaid waiver to CMS asking for approval to *“reimburse traditional healing services provided in, at, or as part of services offered by facilities and clinics operated by the Indian Health Service, a tribe or tribal organization, or an Urban Indian health program”*
 - Arizona will continue ongoing “negotiations and discussions” with Arizona Medicaid and the tribes
- Tribal health centers in Utah suggested a similar waiver be pursued, as traditional healing services are not billable under Medicaid in Utah.



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Proposed Legislation

- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to submit an 1115 Medicaid Waiver requesting that Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal facilities to receive reimbursement for qualified Traditional Medicine services provided for their Medicaid beneficiaries who reside in Utah.
 - The Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHClA) provides support for the practice and integration of Traditional Medicine/Healing services in the health and behavioral health sections for facilities and providers.
- The Traditional Medicine services would be listed as an additional category of service that would be eligible for reimbursement for AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries seen at an IHS/Tribal facility.



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Financing

- Expected administrative cost to establish and maintain the benefit, would need to be determined
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allows 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid services furnished to Medicaid eligible AI/ANs

Need and Benefits

- Tribal members covered under Medicaid will not have to pay out of pocket for certain traditional healing services
- Tribal health facilities cannot currently bill for traditional healing services, making it difficult to sustain these services on-site
- Improved health outcomes when integrated with a comprehensive health care plan

Process and Goals

- Gather recommendations and feedback from Utah Indian Health Advisory Board (UIHAB) ✓
- Seek a motion of support from UIHAB that would allow AUCH to continue the waiver process ✓
- Pass legislation
- If a CMS waiver is successfully submitted, it will await federal approval.

Questions? Thank You!

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