

Medicaid Administrative Claiming for Tribes

Overview

Some of Washington State's most vulnerable residents are tribal members experiencing difficulties getting access to needed health care services. The Health Care Authority (HCA) participates in Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC), a federal reimbursement program that allows HCA to contract with federally recognized tribes to reimburse them a portion of their expenses for performing administrative activities that support the goals of the Medicaid State Plan. Tribal staff participates in a random moment time study to determine what percentage of their time is spent performing reimbursable activities such as outreach, application assistance and referring tribal members to needed healthcare services.

Examples of some of these activities include:

- A community health representative explains to a family how Apple Health could help their son get better access to a specialty doctor.
- A tribal assister (who is not supported by funding from the Health Benefit Exchange) helps a tribal member and her family apply for Apple Health.
- A contract health worker refers a tribal member to a specialty health care provider.

Tribal staff eligible to participate in MAC:

- Examples of Approved tribal job positions include, but are not limited to:
 - ♦ Billings and Benefits Specialist
 - ♦ Case Manager/Caseworker/Clinic Coordinator
 - ♦ Chemical Dependency Professional
 - ♦ Family Support Specialist
 - ♦ Program Manager/Coordinator
 - ♦ Recovery Specialist

Reimbursement/Claiming process

- Participating tribes use a web-based time study/claiming system.
- Participating tribal employees receive periodic emails on their computer or phone when they have been selected to describe a moment of their work time (accounting for a 1-minute interval of time). They respond to four short questions using dropdown selections, and then type a brief narrative detailing the specifics of the activity.
- The typical time it takes to respond to one of these emails is 1-2 minutes.
- Participants have up to five workdays to respond to an email for a moment.
- At the end of the fiscal quarter, the time study determines what percentage of staff time for each tribe was spent performing reimbursable activities, and a claim is generated through the system.
- Currently there are 11 tribes and the Didgwalic Wellness Center participating in the MAC Program.

Tribal MAC references

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More information is available at:

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/programs-and-services/washington-state-federally-recognized-tribes>

