



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

June 12, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Encounter Rate Reimbursement Consultation Closeout

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), the HCA seeks your input and partnership to advance initiatives impacting Tribal communities.

Purpose

On January 15, 2025, HCA sent a Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) announcing the request for Consultation for HCA's work on encounter rate reimbursement. Main purposes of this work was to establish a standard transparent process for encounter rate determination.

Overall, HCA intends to provide a transparent process and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that informs and defines HCA internal staff and our Tribal partners on how the Indian Health Service (IHS) all-inclusive rate is applied to new services and providers:

- Develop standard internal All-Inclusive Rate determination process
- Draft Tribal All-Inclusive Rate WAC in coordination with Tribal Partners
- Submit WAC for legislative approval

The HCA provided two roundtables prior to the Consultation. Based on the feedback provided, HCA updated the AIR internal process draft prior to Consultation.

Next Steps:

HCA's goal is to have an agreed upon process and WAC defining AIR applicability completed within 250 days from the date of filing the CR-101. We thank all Tribal leaders and staff that worked on the encounter rate reimbursement process and WAC language, as well as the American Indian Health Commission for participating in feedback during this Consultation process. We documented representation from 17 Tribes, including Tribal attorneys, program managers, directors, and Tribal leaders.

In addition to the Consultation process, HCA will begin a WAC workgroup to develop the WAC language specific to the State Plan as it pertains to the IHS all-inclusive rate/encounter rate.

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The first work session is scheduled for June 17th at 10 AM to noon on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84258560151>

Meeting ID: 842 5856 0151

Additional work sessions, roundtables, and consultations will be scheduled as needed.

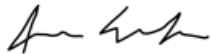
Comments and Questions

Please see the Consultation meeting minutes, final PowerPoint slide deck, and Consultation close-out letter. [Consultations and meetings | Washington State Health Care Authority](#).

We deeply value your partnership and look forward to our continued partnership on behavioral health agreements.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Aren Sparck at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Aren Sparck, Chevak Native Village Qissunamiut Tribal member
Tribal Administrator

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Interim Director, EXO, HCA
Lou McDermott, Chief Operations Officer, EXO, HCA
Dr. Charissa Fotinos, Medicaid Director, AHA, HCA
Dr. Judy Zerzan, Medical Director, CQCT, HCA
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Vicki Lowe, American Indian Health Commission, ED
Steve Kuts, American Indian Health Commission, President
Sarah Sullivan, Health Policy Director, Swinomish Tribe of Indians