



# SPECIAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION TELECONFERENCE

## Meeting Summary

December 7, 2017

2:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m. (Arizona Time)

Conference Bridge: 1-877-820-7831, Participant Passcode: 108903#

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### NOTIFICATION TO TRIBES:

Good Afternoon,

This is to inform you that a special AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Teleconference is scheduled to provide updates on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) policy. The teleconference is scheduled for **December 7, 2017 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.** (Arizona time). To participate, dial **1-877-820-7831**, enter participant passcode, **108903#**. Presentation material will be sent a few days prior to the meeting. The draft agenda is attached.

#### Background:

AHCCCS maintains several documents that address medically necessary non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). The language in these documents requires updating in order to be clearer on our expectations regarding medically necessary NEMT. AHCCCS is issuing policy revisions for AMPM **Policy 310-BB** Transportation, for a 45 day public comment period in order to reach consensus on how to define medically necessary NEMT. Based on public comment, AHCCCS will review and then update 310-BB and all other NEMT based language to be congruent. Until 310-BB and associated materials are finalized and published, providers can continue to maintain status quo.

**Policy 310-BB** will be available at the following link by close of business today for review and public comment:

<https://comments.azahcccs.gov/ahcccs-medical-policy-manual-ampm-proposed-policy-public-comment/>

Please place this important date on your calendars. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Bonnie

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#### **Bonnie Talakte**

Tribal Relations Liaison

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# AGENDA



## **SPECIAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION TELECONFERENCE**

With Tribal Leaders, Tribal Members, Indian Health Services, Tribal Health Programs Operated Under P.L. 93-638 and Urban Indian Health Programs

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Arizona Time)

Conference Call-In: **1-877-820-7831**, Participant Passcode: **108903#**

TOPIC	LEAD
2:00 P.M. – Welcome & Introductions	Bonnie Talakte, <i>AHCCCS Tribal Liaison</i>
<u>Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Policy Update</u>  <u>Background:</u>  AHCCCS maintains several documents that address medically necessary non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). The language in these documents requires updating in order to be clearer on our expectations regarding medically necessary NEMT. AHCCCS is issuing policy revisions for AMPM <b>Policy 310-BB</b> Transportation, for a 45 day public comment period in order to reach consensus on how to define medically necessary NEMT. Based on public comment, AHCCCS will review and then update 310-BB and all other NEMT based language to be congruent. Until 310-BB and associated materials are finalized and published, providers can continue to maintain status quo.  <b>Policy 310-BB</b> will be available at the following link by close of business today for review and public comment: <a href="https://comments.azahcccs.gov/ahcccs-medical-policy-manual-ampm-proposed-policy-public-comment/">https://comments.azahcccs.gov/ahcccs-medical-policy-manual-ampm-proposed-policy-public-comment/</a>	Markay Adams, <i>Assistant Director</i> <i>Division of Fee for Service Management</i>
3:00 p.m. – Adjourn	

## ATTENDEES:

Tribes	<p><u>Gila River Indian Community</u>: Michelle Encisco</p> <p><u>Hopi Tribe</u>: Claude Bakurza, Carrie Dewangyumtewa, Crystal Tawahongva</p> <p><u>Hualapai Tribe</u>: Philbert Watahomigie, Dave Brehmeyer, Kristina Shongo</p> <p><u>Navajo Nation</u>: Casey Etsitty, Melissa Shafer, Marie Keyonnie, Melissa Bruside, Gen Holona, Theresa Galvan, Eveline Maho, Sandi Aretino</p> <p><u>Pascua Yaqui Tribe</u>: Linda Guerrero, Helen Ramos, Vanessa Nunez</p> <p><u>San Carlos Apache Tribe</u>: Vickie Began, David Reede, Raynelle Brown, Jessie Morgan, Jim Smith, Steve Wolf, Deidre Swift, Natsai Ehou, Isiah Belkamp, Melinda White</p> <p><u>Tohono O’odham Nation</u>: Jason Barraza, Jason Borrego, Lynnita Hoffman</p> <p><u>White Mountain Apache Tribe</u>: Penny Altaha</p>
I/T/Us	<u>Tucson Area IHS</u> : Daniel Marino
Other	<u>ITCA</u> : Alida Montiel
AHCCCS Representatives	Bonnie Talakte, Elizabeth Lorenz, Markay Adams, Christina Quast, Michelle Holmes, Natalie Roehlk, Allison Lovell, Patricia Garcia

## MEETING SUMMARY

TOPICS	SUMMARY
<p><b>Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Policy Update</b></p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Markay Adams, Assistant Director, Division of Fee-for-Service Management</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> AHCCCS maintains several documents that address medically necessary non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). The language in these documents requires updating in order to be clearer on our expectations regarding medically necessary NEMT. AHCCCS is issuing policy revisions for <b>AMPM Policy 310-BB</b> Transportation, for a 45 day public comment period in order to reach consensus on how to define medically necessary NEMT. Based on public comment, AHCCCS will review and then update 310-BB and all other NEMT based language to be consistent. Until 310-BB and associated materials are finalized and published, providers can continue to maintain status quo. The policy is open for public comment on the AHCCCS website until December 30, 2017.</p> <p><b>AMPM 310-BB:</b> The last update to this policy was 2012. The updates include clarification on emergency response and the ability to determine the level of necessity and clarity and consistency with the Rule. We also want to clarify additional coverage. There is the current definition of medical necessity and the conditions that were required for medical necessity. We have also expanded coverage related to Medicare Part-D prescriptions. If a member needs NEMT transportation to pick up their Medicare Part-D prescriptions</p>

	<p>that would be considered part of the NEMT coverage. We also added language regarding coverage to evidence based 12 step programs and a maternal and newborn section. You will find evidence based programs in Attachment A. It is posted on-line as well. We are open to public comment on that piece as well.</p> <p><u>Attachment A – Evidence Based 12 Step Programs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alcohol Anonymous</li> <li>-Narcotics Anonymous</li> <li>-Cocaine Anonymous</li> <li>-Crystal Meth Anonymous</li> <li>-Duel Recovery Anonymous</li> <li>-Heroin Anonymous</li> <li>-Marijuana Anonymous</li> <li>-Self Management and Recovery Training also known as Smart Recovery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions</b></p>	<p><b>Q:</b> Can you show us where we can look at the revision?  <b>A:</b> We will send out a link on-line where that policy can be viewed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> What exactly is Smart Recovery?  <b>A:</b> Smart Recovery is a part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s evidence based programs. It’s a non-faith based alternative that is traditional to 12-step groups. Smart Recovery has a similar mutual support base but does not go into the spiritual aspects and is based on cognitive behavioral health. The website address is:  <a href="http://www.smartrecovery.org">www.smartrecovery.org</a>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Is there a mileage reimbursement to attend these 12-step programs to and from meetings and is it a capped rate?  <b>A:</b> Different MCO’s have different reimbursement models within Fee-for-Service (FFS). Typically mileage is tracked via tickets. We look at the individual member’s transportation for that day and what the visits look like. From a fee-for-service perspective it’s generally mileage based but other plans and MCO’s may have a different reimbursement strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Is there advance approval or is that submitted after attendance at the 12-step program?  <b>A:</b> For Fee-for-Service, prior authorization is required for any trip over 100 miles. The MCOs may establish their own requirement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Will there be a need for some type of treatment plan from a counselor or behavioral health specialist in order to justify these AA meetings?  <b>A:</b> Yes, a treatment plan known as a service plan is required that would be associated with the trip.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> If an AHCCCS member on the reservation, on a treatment plan, would like to attend an AA group, can they attend both on and off the reservation if there is a meeting nearby?</p>

	<p><b>A:</b> According to the policy update that would be an allowable coverage . The treatment plan would have to originate from an AHCCCS registered provider and the member would receive that benefit coverage from their plan of enrollment. Please note that we look at the nearest meeting capable of meeting their needs and we look at balancing the need for anonymity so the member would work with the plan in that circumstance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> That is going to bring some issues. We have instances where AA is being attended in Flagstaff and a member lives in Kayenta. The 2 nearest places on the Navajo Nation are Page and Flagstaff. We had instances where NEMT has taken clients to Flagstaff to AA meetings.</p> <p><b>A:</b> From a FFS perspective we would work with the member, transportation company and the person putting it into the service plan to identify the location of an AA meeting that balance anonymity with the nearest location.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>C:</b> There is tool available on the internet through Alcoholics Anonymous at <a href="http://www.area03.org">www.area03.org</a>. It's a website for AA for the state of Arizona. It identifies AA meeting throughout the state of AZ. If the clinician is trying to include AA meetings as part of service plan they can use that as a tool to identify AA meetings.</p> <p><b>R:</b> That is very helpful. Thank you for sharing that information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">∞</p> <p><b>Q:</b> I have a question on prior authorization for mileage over 100 miles. I understand that 638 and IHS are exempt from the 100 mile NEMT prior authorization. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Yes, IHS and 638 NEMT companies are not subject to the prior authorization requirement.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.