Integration as of Oct. 1, 2022 for American Indian/Alaska Native Members with a Serious Mental Illness Designation

On October 1, 2022, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona’s Medicaid program, is updating its contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for health insurance coverage for individuals with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) designation. American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and members of federally recognized tribes have a choice of health plans for Medicaid benefits.

What does this mean for me?

Members
- Currently, members with an SMI designation enrolled in the American Indian Health Program (AIHP) only receive physical health care services from this plan and receive their behavioral health services from a Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RHBA) or a Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority (TRBHA). As of October 1, 2022, members on AIHP will be able to receive both physical and behavioral health benefits from one plan. Members do not need to take any action for this to take effect on October 1, 2022.
- Additional communication regarding integration will be forthcoming, including member letters which will outline more specific enrollment information. These letters will be sent out closer to October 2022.
- AIHP members will still have the option to enroll with an MCO with a Regional Behavioral Health Agreement (RBHA) for all health plan benefits but will also have the new option to enroll with AIHP for all health plan benefits.
- Members can switch between AIHP or an MCO/RHBA plan at any time (including after October 1, 2022) by contacting AHCCCS’ Division of Member and Provider Services, Enrollment unit at 602-417-7100 or 1-800-334-5283, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Arizona time.
- For members who are enrolled with a TRBHA on October 1, 2022, AIHP will automatically become responsible for all physical health benefits on October 1, 2022. Current members do not need to take any action.
- If members have been receiving services from their local Indian Health Service or tribally operated facility (IHS/638 facility), they may continue to do so.
- Members enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) who have an SMI designation, members enrolled in the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD), Developmentally Disabled Tribal Health Program (DD-THP), and members in the Tribal ALTCS program will not be impacted by this change.

Providers
- If you currently have a member enrolled with AIHP, please double check the AHCCCS online portal for health plan enrollment for dates of service on and after October 1, 2022. If the member is enrolled with AIHP or a TRBHA for behavioral health services (as indicated by the behavioral health site code), all prior authorizations and claims should be submitted to the Division of Fee-for-Service Management (DFSM). Additional questions can be directed to providertrainingFFS@azahcccs.gov.

Indian Health Service (IHS)/638 Tribal Facilities
- All AI/AN members that are enrolled with AHCCCS (traditional Medicaid (Title XIX) or KidsCare (Title XXI), may continue to receive services from an IHS/638 facility regardless of health plan enrollment. All claims should be submitted to DFSM for traditional Medicaid members. Claims for KidsCare members should be submitted to the health plan of enrollment.

updated: 4/8/22