



May 3, 2019

ATTENTION: South Dakota Medicaid Providers
FROM: South Dakota Medicaid
RE: Indian Health Service Referrals

This Memo serves as a clarification and reminder of guidance currently within our Professional Services Billing Manual related to referrals from Indian Health Service (IHS) when IHS is not the PCP or Health Home on record for the recipient. South Dakota Medicaid policy allows IHS to refer American Indian Medicaid Recipients even when IHS is not the PCP on record. This guidance may be found on pages 62 of the Professional Services Billing Manual, available here: <https://dss.sd.gov/docs/medicaid/providers/billingmanuals/Professional.pdf>

BILLING MANUAL LANGUAGE

IHS RECIPIENTS

American Indian recipients may choose but are not required to choose Indian Health Services (IHS) as their PCP. If they do not choose IHS as their PCP they can still receive services at any IHS facility without a referral from their PCP.

When IHS is unable to treat the recipient because they require more specialized services they may refer the recipient to another provider, without a referral from the recipient's PCP. Any subsequent referrals after the original IHS referral is also outside of the Care Management requirements and do not require a referral from the recipients PCP. Claims for services referred by IHS must be submitted with the IHS referral information on the claim form.

Types of Referrals

*Referrals are **not** required to be on Medicaid Referral Cards. Providers may choose to use a Medicaid Referral Card, but may also choose to use an electronic referral, a Certificate of Medical Necessity, and documented verbal/phone calls to make a referral. Providers must maintain documentation of a referral in their records regardless of the way the referral was made or received.*

SUMMARY

South Dakota Medicaid enrolled providers may accept a referral from either the recipient's PCP or IHS if the recipient is American Indian. Providers may verify eligibility for IHS using South Dakota Medicaid's Online Eligibility Inquiry.