

# PURCHASED REFERRED CARE (PRC)

## through Indian Health Service

Patients who receive care at an Indian Health Services (IHS) facility may find that a service they require, including emergency care, cannot be provided at IHS. In these cases, IHS may refer patients to another healthcare organization, such as Regional Health, through a program called Purchased Referred Care (PRC). The PRC Program is for medical/dental care provided away from an IHS or tribal health care facility. PRC is not an entitlement program, and an IHS referral does not automatically mean the care will be paid for by IHS. If a PRC program requests payment from IHS, the patient must meet the residency requirements, notification requirements, medical priority, and use of alternate resources.

### REQUIREMENTS AND APPLYING FOR PRC COVERAGE

#### Proof of Enrollment

Provide proof of your enrollment in a federally recognized tribe or proof that you descend from an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.

#### Residency Requirements

Provide proof of permanent residency on a reservation or be within a PRC service delivery area. Provide at least two of the following documents to your PRC representative to prove residency:

- Current state identification (driver's license)
- Mortgage statement
- Rental agreement with landlord contact information
- Current utility bill
- Prior year's tax return
- Paystub from current employer
- Current care insurance/registration records

#### Notification Requirements

Gain prior approval from your IHS Primary Care Provider prior to services at a non-IHS facility. In emergency situations, notify your PRC Representative within 72 hours of receiving care (30 days for elderly [age 65] and disabled). If notification is not made within 72 hours, you will be responsible for the bill. PRC covers emergent care only in life-threatening situations. Sore throats, earaches, rashes, follow-ups, medicine refills, etc. are not considered life-threatening situations.

#### Medical Priority

Ensure that services meet your IHS or Tribal Health facility's established PRC Medical Priorities. PRC funds may not be used for services that are reasonably accessible or available at an IHS or Tribal Health facility.

#### Alternate Resources

Show that you have pursued alternate resources. PRC is a last resort payer program. Even if the patient has received a referral from an IHS provider they must show the PRC

program that they have pursued any alternate resources for which they may be eligible. When a patient has Medicare, Medicaid, private health insurance, Veteran's Assistance, workers compensation, or is covered by another resource, that resource is the primary payer.

#### Denial and Appeal Process

A person denied services from PRC may request a reconsideration of a denial in an appeals process. Refer to <https://www.ihs.gov/prc/appeal-process> or contact your PRC representative at IHS for more information.

#### Pregnancy/Prenatal Care

Some IHS facilities do not provide Labor and Delivery care. In some cases, a PRC program may pay for the care you receive at another facility. According to IHS regulations, it is mandatory that alternate resources be utilized before PRC funds can be authorized. You may be eligible for Title 10 (Medicaid) under program 77 which is available from the Department of Social Services (DSS). To see if you are eligible for program 77, please call your local IHS Unit and local DSS office.

#### Payment Options

If the care you receive at Regional Health is not covered by a PRC program, our Patient Financial Advocates will assist you with payment or resource alternatives. Ask to speak with an Advocate at a local Regional Health facility or call 605-755-7500.

### PRC PROGRAM OFFICES

For more information, please contact your local IHS Purchased Referred Care program office:

SIoux SAN .....	Phone: 605-355-2500	Fax: 605-355-2515
PINE RIDGE .....	Phone: 605-867-3051	Fax: 605-867-3234
EAGLE BUTTE .....	Phone: 605-964-0553	
ROSEBUD .....	Phone: 605-747-2231	Fax: 605-747-5917
FT. THOMPSON .....	Phone: 605-245-1506	Fax: 605-245-2384
FT. YATES .....	Phone: 701-854-8209	Fax: 701-854-2106
LOWER BRULE .....	Phone: 605-473-8224	Fax: 605-473-5677

161371\_0119