

PROVIDER TYPES

Indian Health Service

Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities provide direct health care services exclusively to American Indian and Alaska Native populations. This includes about 2.7 million members of Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporation shareholders. ¹

The IHS mission is to improve the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing both culturally appropriate and accessible health care.

These health providers are funded by the IHS, and may be run directly by the IHS, tribal health services, or Urban Indian Health Programs. They provide a variety of services such as hospital care, ambulatory medical care, preventive health services, and community health initiatives.

On April 21, 1998, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) implemented the [IHS/MOA between the federal IHS and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#). The IHS/MOA [changed the reimbursement policy](#) for services provided to Medicare and Medicaid recipients within American Indian or Alaskan native health care facilities identified as **638 facilities**. Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and certain Primary Care Clinics (PCCs) that are designated by the Federal IHS as eligible to participate in the IHS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) may enroll as IHS clinic providers. Clinics cannot be designated as both an IHS and an RHC/FQHC/PCC provider.

Current Medicaid regulations require that a state plan allows an IHS facility that meets state requirements for Medicaid participation to be accepted on the same basis as any other qualified provider. However, where state licensure is normally required, the regulations provide that the IHS facility need not obtain such a license but must meet all applicable standards for licensure. With the new interpretation that tribally owned and operated 638 facilities are "IHS facilities," such 638 facilities must meet all applicable standards for licensure but need not obtain a state license.

The IHS is not an insurance program nor a benefits package and operates under a budget appropriated through the U.S. Congress. Those eligible for IHS services are encouraged to obtain a health plan through Marketplace, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance (CHIP) to help cover health care services beyond what IHS can provide.

For a list of Federally recognized tribes, click [here](#).

Reference

1 Indian Health Service. (n.d.). About IHS. Retrieved from: <https://www.ihs.gov/aboutihs/>