



Health Care Reform in Indian Country

Self-Governance Communication & Education

Self-Governance Tribes Striving Towards Excellence in Health Care

Instructions for Updating HHS ECP List for 2017 Coverage Year¹

INITIAL NOTICE

October 29, 2015

This issue brief seeks to provide guidance to Indian health care providers (IHCPs) that would like to remain on or be added to the list of essential community providers (ECPs) maintained by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (referred to as the “HHS ECP List”) for the 2017 coverage year (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017). The HHS ECP List is used by qualified health plans (QHPs) offered on a Health Insurance Marketplace to identify ECPs operating in their service areas. QHPs are required to include a certain percentage of ECPs in their provider networks and meet other requirements specifically pertaining to IHCPs. For instance, QHPs are required to offer a provider contract that meets minimum requirements to all IHCPs in their service area.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) at HHS maintains the HHS ECP List.

CCIIO is adding new data fields to each ECP entry on the HHS ECP List for the 2017 Coverage Year. CCIIO has indicated that all data fields must be populated in order for an ECP to remain on the HHS ECP List for 2017. **As a result, all IHCPs, even those that already appear on the 2015/2016/Draft 2017 HHS ECP List, will have to provide some additional information in order to remain on the list for 2017 Coverage Year.** Again, if all data fields are not populated, current entries will be removed from the HHS ECP List for the 2017 Coverage Year.

A Web-based portal will be made available by CCIIO to make updates to an entry on the HHS ECP List. As of today, CCIIO has not announced when the portal will be available (*i.e.*, the specific dates for entering the updates to the HHS ECP List). Once announced, **IHCPs and other ECPs will have a limited window to update their entries on the HHS ECP List – possibly from mid-November, 2015, to mid-December, 2015.**

The Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC) will host a Webinar with CCIIO to explain the process for updating the HHS ECP List. The date of the Webinar will be announced when CCIIO indicates it is prepared to explain the process. To determine if a particular IHCP is on the current HHS ECP List, IHCPs can go to <https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Health-Insurance-Marketplaces/Downloads/FINAL-non-exhaustive-HHS-List-of-ECPs-for-PY-2016.xlsx>.

We will continue to keep Self-Governance Tribes informed and send out additional broadcast emails once CCIIO announces the dates for updating entries on the HHS ECP List as well as a notice indicating the date of the forthcoming TSGAC-hosted Webinar on this topic.

¹ This brief is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice. For questions on this brief, please contact Doneg McDonough, TSGAC Technical Advisor, at DonegMcD@Outlook.com.