



Short-term Management Priorities for the Indian Health Service



During his tenure as Director for the Indian Health Service, Dr. Charles W. Grim has identified eight short-term priorities. These initial initiatives will assist the IHS move towards the President's goal for a government that is citizen centered, results oriented, and market based.

Mediate negative impacts from changes in revenue sources

Work with HHS and CMS leadership to avoid revenue losses for IHS, Tribal, and urban Indian health programs from scheduled changes to the Medicare Outpatient Payment System while maintaining patient care services that are dependent on these revenues. Anticipate and assess potential impact of changes to other revenue sources.

Campaign to inform the public about IHS successes and correct erroneous stereotypes

A case can be made that IHS is the finest rural health care system in the Nation, but millions of Americans know little about Indian health care and often rely on erroneous information.

Expand capability to recruit and retain health care professionals

Measures such as web-based job announcements and applications are targeted at reducing unacceptably high vacancy rates among health care professionals in the IHS workforce.

Inter-agency collaboration to eliminate Indian health disparities

As co-chair for the Intra-Departmental Council on Native American Affairs an initial goal is to assess all Department of Health and Human Services programs and insure Indian people are not left out of programs available to other Americans.

Emphasize proven disease prevention measures

Making a real impact in health disparities experienced by Indian people means preventing disease and injury, not just treating patients after the onset of poor health.

Adopt a business plan, drawn from private sector successes, to adapt IHS to rapidly changing health care environment

The IHS business plan will identify operational innovations in how IHS conducts the business side of the complex IHS health care system.

New Management Controls

New management controls are being installed to reduce administrative travel costs and preserve and enhance patient health care services. Management controls to increase efficiencies in other areas will follow.

Restructure the IHS Headquarters

The Tribes and the IHS are developing a 5-year strategy to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency to meet Tribal health priorities and Department organizational objectives. In addition, the IHS is looking at restructuring the headquarters functions and components to reflect and support the 5-year strategy.

