



JUN 09 2004

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) remains committed to consultation with the Tribes we serve in order to improve the provision of health services to all Tribes. I am enclosing a draft policy on other beneficiaries for your review and comments regarding the provision of health services to ineligible individuals under Section 813(b) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA).

The Headquarters Public Law 93-638 Leadership Team (HQLT) created the draft policy for use by IHS staff when making joint determinations under authority of the IHCIA, Section 813(b)(1)(A) and as guidance when Tribes want to provide health services to ineligible individuals under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and still satisfy the requirements of the IHCIA. This issue continues to be a serious concern to the IHS and Tribes throughout Indian Country.

Please review the draft policy and send your questions and comments by August 20 to Mr. Ronald B. Demaray, Chairman of the HQLT and Director of Self-Determination Services., IHS Office of Tribal Programs. His address is 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 220, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Demaray's attention at (301) 443-4666 or e-mailed to rdemaray@hqe.ihs.gov

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Grim, DDS

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Assistant Surgeon General
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Enclosure