

.02 MD TPL Indian Health Services (IHS)

Participants enrolled in Indian Health Services (IHS) may have some or all of their medical expenses paid by IHS. IHS eligible participants include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Native American tribal members
- Active and retired U.S. Public Health Service employees
- Dependents of U.S. Public Health Service employees

NOTE It is not required that U.S. Public Health Services employees and their dependents be Native Americans.

IHS eligible participants being treated at an IHS facility are not billed for their medical services.

A non-IHS medical provider may provide services at an IHS facility. When this occurs, the IHS patient may sign a contract or may agree to pay the provider separately for the services received.

IHS may not be able to provide or may not have the facilities to provide the medical services needed. IHS refers the patient to a non-IHS facility.

The [IHS Contract Health Unit](#) determines whether IHS or the patient is responsible for payment of the services provided by a non-IHS facility. Contract Health may pre-approve and provide a purchase order to pay for the services provided.

Expenses for medical services that are not covered by IHS and are the financial responsibility of the patient are allowable medical expenses when determining eligibility in the MD category.

When an MD determination may be needed for an eligible IHS participant, the [Policy Support Team](#) (PST) assists in obtaining information regarding MD allowable expenses. E-mail the PST with the following information:

- The participant's name, residential address, date of birth, and Social Security Number.
- The **AZTECS** case number, site code, EI name, and EI telephone number.

The PST responds to the inquiry within five work days and advises the local office of which expenses are allowable in the MD determination. Place a copy of the e-mail from the PST in the [case file\(g\)](#).