



# TAG news

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*“The consultation will also provide a forum for Tribes to collectively share their views and priorities.”*

—Kathleen Sebelius

## Award of Part A/B (A/B) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)

On November 8, 2011, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Highmark Medicare Services (HMS) has been awarded the contract for the administration of Medicare Part A and Part B fee-for-service claims in the newly-formed A/B MAC Jurisdiction H.

CMS is forming Jurisdiction H by consolidating A/B MAC Jurisdictions 4 and 7. This change reflects the CMS MAC jurisdiction strategy, announced in 2010, to consolidate from 15 (fifteen) Part A/B MAC jurisdictions to 10 (ten) by 2016.

When the new MAC contract is fully implemented, HMS will serve Medicare beneficiaries in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Over the next several months, CMS will oversee the transfer of Medicare work from the incumbent contractors to HMS.

Barring any unforeseen delays, CMS expects to complete the transfer of the Medicare claims workloads for Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to HMS in early 2012. CMS expects to complete the transfer of the Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas workloads (as well as Indian Health Service facilities) administered by TrailBlazer to the A/B Jurisdiction H MAC contract by late July 2012.

## Latest Happenings with TAG

On February 14th, Tribal Affairs staff will attend the HHS Combined Regional Consultation (HHS Regions I, II, IV, VI) Joint Session with Social Services in Crystal City, VA. The purpose of the HHS regional session is to consult with Tribes regarding HHS issues and to provide updates on HHS initiatives and such as the Affordable Care Act, CMMI’s Partnership for Patients initiative, and other specific issues related to CMS, ACF, SAMSHA and IHS. HHS Tribal Consultation

## CMS Tribal Consultation Training

The Tribal Affairs Group met with Jon Blum and Center for Medicare managers to provide an overview of the Indian health system and the CMS Tribal Consultation Policy. Copies of the policy and culture cards on how to communicate with tribal leaders were distributed.

Additionally, we are producing a Medicine Dish that focuses on the CMS Consultation Policy and will be used as a training tool for new employees’ orientation.

Mike Mahsetky, IHS Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, will discuss the history of Indian Health, along with Kitty Marx, who will provide an overview of the consultation policy. The Medicine Dish broadcast will

**2012 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Long Term Services and Supports Conference March 21-23, 2012**

The Curtis Denver Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 1405 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80202

[Click here](#) for the save the date  
[Click here](#) to find more information about the conference and to register

**Tribal Technical Advisory Group Calls and Face to Face Meetings for 2012**

March 14, 2012 - Conference Call

April 11, 2012 - Conference Call

May 9, 2012 - Conference Call

June 13, 2012 - Conference Call

July 25-26, 2012 - Face to Face Meeting, Washington D.C.

August 8, 2012 - Conference Call

September 12, 2012 Conference Call

October 10, 2012 Conference Call

November 14-15, 2012 Conference Call

December 12, 2012 Conference Call

2:30-4p.m. EST

Conference Call in number: External Participants 877-267-1577

CMS Internal Participants 6-3100

Meeting ID 9925

also include interviews with Tribal leaders and is expected to be broadcast in March and will be available on YouTube under the key words "Medicine Dish."

**HHS Tribal Budget Consultation – Save the dates!**

On January 11th, the Department of Health and Human Services released a "Dear Tribal Leader Letter" inviting Tribes to the 14th Annual U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) which will take place from March 7- 9, 2012, in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC as well as to its 2012 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations held across the country.

**American Indian/Alaska Natives Children's Health Insurance Program PSAs are now available online**

We are excited to inform you that the American Indian/Alaska Natives Children's Health Insurance Program PSAs are now available online at [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov) website.

Please feel free to download and use at your discretion.

**Tentative dates for the CMS/ITU Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP trainings**

Region	Location	Date	TAG	NAC	BOC
Region I: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Portland ME	5/21-22/12		Nancy Grano	Robin Bartlett
Region II: NY, NJ	Niagara Falls, NY	8/17-18	Bonnie Hills-berg	Vennetta Harris	Robin Bartlett
Region IV: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN, KY	Miccosukee	11/16-17	Lindsey Co-meta	Crystal Francis	Robin Bartlett
Region V: IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Prior Lake, MN	7/21/11	Jim Lyon	Pam Carson	Leslie Reece
		TBD		Pam Carson	Leslie Reece
Region VI: AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Dallas, TX	5/15-16/12	Roger Goo-dacre	Stacey Shuman/ Dorsey Sadongei	
Region VII: IA, KS, MO, NE			John Johns	Nancy Rios	
Region VIII: CO, MT, ND, SD, WY, UT	Denver, CO	11/8-10	Jim Lyon	Cindy Smith Mary Munoz	
	Riverton, WY	9/20		C.S./M.M.	
	N or S Dakota	May/June	Georgey Sparks	C.S./M.M.	
Region IX: AZ, CA, NV	Sacramento, CA	9/14-15	Bonnie Hills-berg	Rosie Norris	
	Phoenix	10/25-26	John Johns	Rosie Norris	
	Reno	10/21	Jim Lyon	Rosie Norris	
	Window Rock AZ	4/5-6		Rosie Norris	
	Southern CA	April/May		Rosie Norris	
Region X: AK, ID, OR, WA	Alaska	TBD	Roger Goo-dacre	Priya Helweg	
	Seattle WA			Priya Helweg	
	Portland OR			Priya Helweg	

# Tribal Affairs Group Quarterly Newsletter

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, OPE, Tribal Affairs Group

## Award of Part A/B (A/B) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)

Newsletter Date  
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Inside this issue:

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