

INDIAN HEALTH CONTRACT SERVICES

The Social and Environmental Research Associates (SERA) interviews indicate that dental problems are the number one health concern of Siletz tribal members.

Effective February 1, 1979 the Indian Health Service is making routine dental care available to eligible Siletz people. The scope of care is complete with the exception of orthodontia (straightening of teeth). To receive service call Chemawa School Health Center at 393-6333 or toll free 1-800-452-7923. Ask to speak to the Contract Health Service Branch. You will get the necessary information to receive care.

When calling please have the social security numbers of all adult members of the household. We are using the Oregon Dental Service (ODS) computers for payment/services information storage. They require social security numbers to identify patients.

At this time there are sufficient funds to provide for most dental needs. As funding is depleted elective procedures will be gradually eliminated.

We want all tribal members to receive the care they require. Please do not wait.

DENTAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT - In the near future a selected number of individuals will be asked if they may be examined by Indian Health Service dentists. The time and place of the examination will be coordinated by the Community Health Representatives.

By this sampling technique, where a small number of selected individuals is examined, the Indian Health Service can determine what the dental care needs of the entire tribal membership will be. It is quite important that everyone asked to be examined do so to make the information as accurate as possible.

Our objective is to provide quality dental care to all tribal members wishing them. The data gathered through these examinations will be used to assist us in this effort.

DEFERRED SURGERY PROGRAM

The Indian Health Service has funding for deferred surgeries. If you have a surgical procedure that you need, but have put off, contact Chemawa. This program may be able to help.

We will need the following information:

- (1) the diagnosis
- (2) the physicians name, address and phone number.
- (3) approximate date the condition was first diagnosed and
- (4) approximate charges for surgery, hospitalization, and laboratory.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

Three CHR's, Alice Werth, Maxine Rilatos, and Wilma Strong are attending a 3-week training session in Oklahoma. Orientation will be broad and general on health care programs, services, vocabulary, and systems. The CHR's will bring those in need of care to the trained professionals, they will not administer the care themselves.