

Managed Care forced to limit payment for some referrals

New limits apply only to off-reservation procedures

By the Managed Care Program staff

Effective immediately, the Managed Care Program of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will only pay for priority I level services for medical care off the reservation.

Overview

The Managed Care Program is operated by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs but is funded with federal dollars through the Indian Health Service (IHS) under a "638" contract.

The stated goal of the Managed Care Program is to: "Provide quality services in managing health care referrals to specialists off the reservation for eligible Native American com-

munity members in order to facilitate quality care at a reasonable cost for health care that cannot be provided at the IHS clinic."

Operating with limited funds, the Managed Care Program strives to make sure that when an eligible community member sees a provider of medical services outside of the Health and Wellness Center, such as a doctor or a hospital, his or her care is of good quality and at a reasonable cost.

From 1993 to 2002, by carefully managing the budgeted funds, the Managed Care Program processed all requested, medically necessary referrals within priorities, and was able to pay for the services from these referrals with each current year

budget. In fact, up until two years ago, the Managed Care Program was able to operate within budget and accumulate unspent dollars every year since it began operations.

Operating efficiently and aggressively utilizing alternate resources, particularly the Oregon Health Plan, the Managed Care Program was able to process all medically necessary referrals that fell with the IHS Priority Levels I-IV.

Financial and referral service status

Starting in 2002, escalating healthcare costs combined with cutbacks in the Oregon Health Plan began exerting its effects on the Managed Care Program. Although the Managed Care Program finished over the current year budget in 2003 and 2004, the program utilized un-

spent funds accumulated over the prior years, and did not restrict the referral process in either of these two years.

However, the Managed Care Program reserve funds are being depleted, and the time when the referral process will be affected has arrived. Healthcare costs are continuing to increase, and you read about their impact in the news just about every day.

Cutbacks in the Oregon Health Plan are having a dramatic effect on the Managed Care Program budget. The program will not be able to continue to pay for many of the services it has paid for over the last dozen years.

Warm Springs has been somewhat unique in paying for the wide variety of services it has in the past, in that many reservations in the Portland Area (Oregon, Washington, Idaho) either start out the year on Pri-

ority I status, or go to Priority I status part way through the year.

Priority I Level services are defined as "Emergent/Acutely Urgent Care Services," and are those "services necessary to prevent the immediate death or serious impairment of the health of the individual".

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Managed Care Program is totally dependent on the IHS for funds to operate.

Unfortunately, in light of the factors mentioned above, these funds are no longer sufficient to cover the range of services the Managed Care Program has paid for in the past. Regrettably, effective immediately, the Managed Care Program will only pay for Priority I Level services for medical care off the reservation. This policy will be in effect until further notice.

Walking team appreciates help with raffle

The walking team "Wading to Exhale" raffle results are as follows, with the name of winner, and item won. Many of the items were donated by Rita Squiemphen, Earlynne Squiemphen, Lynn Fluhr, Cheryl Lohman, Redine Kirk, Margie Ellsbury and The Museum at Warm Springs.

Eyvonne Rekow, 3-pc towel set; Reicie Chavez, 10-pc headband; Sammi O'Reilly, Beaded Nike Visor; Earl Squiemphen, beaded Seahawks cap; Glenn Fluhr, 42" mini umbrella; Cark Mukumoto, mini radio; Noree Guerin, vivitar camera; Janell Smith, alarm sport watch; Zachary Fluhr, spongebob gloves & hot wheel car; Val Squiemphen, beaded choker; Bob Porter, hand held racing game and gloves; Jim Ellsbury, hand held BB game and rubber ducky; Val Squiemphen, AT&T phone card; Warren Fluhr, elk pocket watch; Maryann Schwartz, Cheetos & Fritos pack; Audrey Bernard, thinsulate camo gloves; Judy Fluhr, grey thermolite gloves; Eyvonne Rekow, 40-pc socket set; Dan/Heather Martinez, blue fanny pack with coin purse; Brian Lund, outdoor companion; William Leonard, Barbie doll and barrettes;

Eyvonne Rekow, coin purse with pen; Topaz O'Reilly, Eagle feather antler stand; Audrey Bernard, toothpaste and soap holder; Eyvonne Rekow, fleece throw blanket; Glenn Fluhr, easy open hamper; Rusty Marcum, photo album; Penny Flowers, water bottle with pen; Glenn Fluhr, 3 dish cloths; Val Squiemphen, 3 pc bathroom set; Zachary Fluhr, bear in a mug; Deb Alvarez, Oil of Olay lotion pack; Sissy Smith, 2-speed hand blender; Jermaine Sampson, heart shape jewelry holder with barrettes; Charles Barnett, Job boss tool holder; Tony Torres, 49er backpack; Zachery Fluhr, bath tub place mats; Lynn Davis photo screen holder; Eyvonne Rekow, Huckleberry Basket; Dan/Heather Martinez, 3-person tent. And the grand prize went to Noree Guerin, who received a "Home & Garden" basket, containing everything that can be used around your home, which was donated by Earlynne Squiemphen and Lynn Fluhr.

I would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and congratulate all the winners. A special thank you goes out to Rita Squiemphen, Margie Ellsbury, The Museum, Redine Kirk, Cheryl Lohman, and Lynn

Fluhr for all the donated items. Hats off to my entire walking team for selling the tickets - great job! We will be participating in the Portland to Coast Walk August 26 & 27, which is held

in conjunction with the Hood to Coast relay.

Once again, thank you everyone.

Earlynne Squiemphen, team captain.

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Pi-Ume-Sha stickgame raffle results

The 2005 Pi-Ume-Sha Stickgame Raffle results, listed by winner, the prize, and the person who donated the prize:

Rickey Walker, thermal cafe set, Mona Schuster. Angel Fisher, Pendleton blanket, Sam Starr. Tim Abill, chair with umbrella, Mona Schuster. Bill Taylor, cooler, Kim Starr. Amy Ramos, wolf statue, Mona Schuster. Jamie Watlamat, tent, Orlando Doney. Albert Bryant Jr., air mattress, Mona Schuster. Dakota Ramos, elk knife, Bill Taylor. Jim Garrett, \$25 Safeway card, Donna Torres. Mariah Pete, cooler with radio, Mona Schuster. Barbara Starr, ceramic eagle dream catcher, Louise Taylor. Terry Benson, \$50 cash, Nettie Dickson. Tamara Nielson, rod/reel pole with case, Mona Schuster. Neteva Polk-Saludo, \$100 cash, Sam Starr. Sam Jim, Pendleton blanket, Sam Starr. Sean Cook, ceramic wolf dream catcher, Louise Taylor. Lydell Suppha, electric scooter, Richard Tohet. Barbara Starr, lawn chair, Donna Torres. Kim Starr, large picnic umbrella, Donna Torres. Bob McKay, clock radio, Vanessa Andy.

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