

COMMUNITY PUBLIC NOTICE — OPEN FOR COMMENT

Health care patients: proposed pharmacy changes

Effective as of May 15, 2000, prescription drugs and medical supplies provided by the Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center will be provided as a Contract Health Service benefit on a cost-reimbursement basis. This means that drugs and medical supplies will no longer be provided as a free service to members of Indian tribes other than the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, except for those members of other tribes who are determined to be eligible for Contract Health Services as having close social and economic ties with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, or members of the Siletz Tribe under reciprocity arrangement with the Siletz Tribal Clinic.

For those Native patients who have

a third party payer resource, such as the Oregon Health Plan or medical insurance with prescription coverage that the Pharmacy accepts assignment for, the Pharmacy will bill that resource on the patient's behalf at the allowable reimbursement rate. Copayments and deductibles will be waived for Native patients with third party payer coverage. Patients are urged to provide information regarding third party payer resource to the Pharmacy in advance, which will help keep waiting time to a minimum.

For those Native patients who do not have third party payer coverage, but who are eligible for the Grand Ronde Contract Health Service Program, the Pharmacy will bill the Contract Health Service Program at ac-

quisition cost of the drugs and medical supplies. Eligibility for the Contract Health Service Program requires that a person be a Grand Ronde enrolled member and reside in the designated five county Contract Health Service Delivery Area, or be a member of another tribe who has established and maintains close social and economic ties with the Grand Ronde Tribe and resides within the Contract Health Service Delivery Area.

Those Native patients who do not have a third party payer resource for which the Pharmacy accepts assignment and are not eligible for the Grand Ronde Contract Health Service Program will be required to pay for prescriptions at the Pharmacy's acquisition cost at the time the prescription is provided. The pharmacy

accepts Visa, MasterCard, debit card, cash or in-state checks.

Pharmacy services which are currently provided to non-Native medical clinic patients on a full cost reimbursement basis from the patient and/or their insurance coverage or Oregon Health Plan will continue unchanged.

This policy change is made necessary due to the failure of the federal appropriations for Indian Health Services to keep pace with cost of inflation and population growth.

Patients who wish to obtain further information regarding this policy and the reasons for it are encouraged to contact the Health and Wellness Center at (503) 879-2001 or 879-2098.

The following chart indicates pharmacy payment procedures for patients based on tribal/community status, and Contract Health/third party coverage. Use the column descriptions to find out if there are any changes to your prescription coverage.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Pharmacy Service Eligibility & Payment Policy						
If Patient Is:	Contract Health Eligible		Third Party Payer Coverage		Drug Cost	Service Fee
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Grand Ronde Tribal Member	X		X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Grand Ronde Tribal Member	X			X	Billed to CHS	No Charge
Grand Ronde Tribal Member		X	X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Grand Ronde Tribal Member		X		X	No Charge	No Charge
Unenrolled Grand Ronde Descendant Under 18	X		X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Unenrolled Grand Ronde Descendant Under 18	X			X	Billed to CHS	No Charge
Unenrolled Grand Ronde Descendant Over 18		X	X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Unenrolled Grand Ronde Descendant Over 18		X		X	No Charge	No Charge
Member of Other Tribe With Close Social & Economic Ties to Grand Ronde Tribe	X		X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Member of Other Tribe Without Close Social & Economic Ties to Grand Ronde Tribe		X	X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Member of Other Tribe Without Close Social & Economic Ties to Grand Ronde Tribe		X		X	Patient pays	No Charge
Member of Siletz Tribe under reciprocity arrangement with Siletz Tribal Clinic		X	X		Billed to third party	Billed to third party
Member of Siletz Tribe under reciprocity arrangement with Siletz Tribal Clinic		X		X	No Charge	No Charge
Non-Indian of Grand Ronde Community		X	X		Billed to third party	Patient copayment
Non-Indian of Grand Ronde Community		X		X	Patient pays	Patient pays

Eligibility by close social and economic ties requires that a member of another tribe be employed by the Grand Ronde Tribe, or a business entity owned by the Tribe, or be married to a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Written comments may be submitted to the Health Executive Director until April 21, 2000.