

December 3, 2025

Dear Tribal Partners:

This letter is regarding the Tribal Consultation between the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and the North Dakota Indian Tribes. The consultation process was established to ensure Tribal governments are included in the decision-making processes when proposed changes in the Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program(s) will directly impact the North Dakota Tribes and/or their Tribal members.

Nursing Facility Services

Effective January 1, 2026, a 3.2% Skilled Nursing Facility Market Basket adjustment will be applied for all Nursing Facility services. The expected impact to providers is a higher reimbursement rate for services based on a 3.2% inflation rate.

Also on January 1, 2026 North Dakota is transitioning to a new classification system titled ND PDPM. The impact to residents of a nursing home is a classification that more accurately reflects their health and care needs. The new classification system is not expected to change the cost of care.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)

Effective January 1, 2026, North Dakota Medicaid will be providing a 2% inflationary increase for all Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility services as authorized by the 2025 Legislative Assembly. The expected impact to providers is a higher reimbursement rate for services based on a 2% inflation rate.

Effective January 1, 2026, North Dakota Medicaid will be submitting a State Plan Amendment to reimburse therapeutic leave days for individuals in a PRTF. Therapeutic leave days are when the resident is not in the facility, another PRTF, hospital, or ICF but is still a resident of the facility. ND Medicaid will reimburse for up to fifteen days per certification of need period. PRTF providers will now be reimbursed for therapeutic leave days.

MEDICAL SERVICES

600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325 | Bismarck ND 58505-0250

Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services

Effective January 1, 2026, North Dakota Medicaid will be submitting a State Plan Amendment to refine the services provided under Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services. These refinements will provide enhanced guidelines for services to determine the appropriate level of care for members. We will also set soft annual limitations on certain services to ensure all services provided are medically necessary. These limitations can be exceeded through a service authorization.

Impacts:

- For Tribal members and families: These refinements help ensure members receive the right level of care at the right time, improving access to consistent behavioral health services and reducing delays or gaps in treatment.
- For Tribal providers and programs: Clearer medical necessity standards and service definitions can support billing consistency, documentation accuracy, and staffing/caseload planning within Tribal behavioral health programs.
- For Tribal communities: More consistent service delivery may help strengthen community wellness infrastructure.

Other Licensed Providers

Effective January 1, 2026, North Dakota Medicaid will be submitting a State Plan Amendment to recognize Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) as Other Licensed Providers. This change will make LMSWs eligible to bill for covered services within their scope of practice.

Impacts:

- For Tribal members and families: This change increases access to assessments, care coordination, and therapy support, which can help reduce wait times and improve continuity of care.
- For Tribal providers and programs: Expanding provider eligibility creates new billing opportunities and allows Tribal programs to fully utilize LMSW staff, supporting workforce capacity and flexibility.
- For Tribal communities: Improved access to behavioral health services may strengthen prevention and early-intervention efforts and support community mental health needs.

School-Based Services

Effective January 1, 2026, North Dakota Medicaid will be submitting a State Plan Amendment to make LPNs an allowable provider to bill for T1000, private duty/independent nursing services, within a school-based setting. LPNs may perform this service under the supervision of an RN. This change will allow more providers to perform services in schools for students with complex medical needs, allowing the student to remain in school.

Impacts:

- For Tribal members and families: Expanding who can provide medical services in

schools helps students with complex medical needs remain safely in school and reduces educational disruption.

- For Tribal providers and programs: Tribal and BIE schools may have increased flexibility in meeting IEP-required medical services and can rely on a broader pool of nursing staff when shortages occur.
- For Tribal communities: This change supports school stability, improves student access to necessary health supports, and may reduce reliance on out-of-school placements due to medical needs.

Correct Coding Initiative

North Dakota Medicaid follows the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edits. These edits were developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMCS) based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Correct Procedure Terminology Manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practices and a review of current coding practices. CMS annually updates the Medicaid NCCI Policy Manual and the Medicaid NCCI Technical Guidance Manual. For more information go to <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/national-correct-coding-initiative-medicaid/index.html>

Please send comments, questions or concerns about the proposed State Plan Amendments or waivers to:

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Monique Runnels
Medical Services Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 325
Bismarck, ND 58505
Fax: 701-328-1544
E-mail: mrunnels@nd.gov

Input will be accepted through 12 PM, Central Time, Monday, January 5, 2026.

The Department appreciates the continued opportunity to work collaboratively with tribal partners to support health and advance the foundations of well-being for North Dakota Medicaid members.

Sincerely,



Sarah Aker
Executive Director
Medical Services Division
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services