

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 05-20, TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP AND AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

DATE: December 21, 2020

Manual: Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

Change No: 05-20

To: County Directors of Social Services

I. BACKGROUND

The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) has updated the Medicaid policy manual to add a new section, MA-2507, Tribal Membership and American Indian Health Service (IHS). This policy provides instruction for treatment of enrollment fees, copayments, and premiums for members of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe or individuals who are not members of a federally recognized tribe but are eligible for IHS.

This policy also provides updated guidance that self-attestation is no longer an acceptable verification of Tribal Membership or IHS eligibility. Verification of tribal membership or IHS eligibility is not a Medicaid eligibility factor. Application processing should not be delayed for verification.

II. CHANGE

Currently, members of a federally recognized American Indian tribe are only required to provide self-attestation of membership to be exempt from payment of enrollment fees, copays, and premiums.

Non-tribal members who are IHS eligible may now be exempt from enrollment fees, copayments, and premiums.

Beginning with the January 2021 release, NC FAST has added new evidences to capture verification of Tribal Membership and IHS eligibility.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

For current active Medicaid/NC Health Choice beneficiaries who have an indicator for membership in a federally recognized American Indian tribe, the individual will remain eligible for exemptions until the verification of tribal membership is received. For certification periods

ending January 31, 2021 or later, DHB will issue guidance at a later date on actions that should be taken by the county.

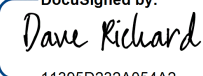
NC FAST will take the following steps for these “grandfathered” individuals:

- Tribal Membership evidence will be added to the beneficiary’s person page, evidence tab.
- NC FAST will add “Tribal Member Grandfathering” as the verification for these individuals.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective for all applications, recertifications, and ongoing cases in process on or after January 11, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding information in this letter, please contact your [Medicaid Operational Support Team Representative](#).

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Dave Richard
Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid