

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation

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Durant, Oklahoma 74701

HOLLIS E. ROBERTS
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

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JANUARY 29, 1981

DEAR CHOCTAW CITIZENS:

THIS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED COPIES OF THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OF SERVICES FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE. THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

YOU ARE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AVAILABLE SERVICES, AS MEDICALLY INDICATED, IF YOU ARE OF INDIAN DESCENT AND BELONG TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY SERVED BY THE LOCAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAM.

AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE REGARDED AS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE INDIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICE PROGRAM IF HE/SHE IS REGARDED AS AN INDIAN BY THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH HE/SHE LIVES AS EVIDENCED BY SUCH FACTORS AS: TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP, ENROLLMENT, RESIDENCE ON TAX-EXEMPT LAND, OWNERSHIP OF RESTRICTED PROPERTY, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN TRIBAL AFFAIRS; OR OTHER FACTORS IN KEEPING WITH THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PRACTICES.

IN CASE OF DOUBT AS TO WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR CARE IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM, THE MEDICAL OFFICE IN CHARGE SHALL OBTAIN FROM THE APPROPRIATE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS INFORMATION PERTINENT TO HIS DETERMINATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP TO THE INDIAN POPULATION GROUP SERVED.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES, IF YOU ARE (A) THE NON-INDIAN SPOUSE OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIAN AND RESIDE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF THAT ELIGIBLE INDIAN; OR (B) YOU ARE A NON-INDIAN MEMBER OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIAN'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND RESIDE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF THAT ELIGIBLE INDIAN; OR (C) YOU ARE THE SURVIVING NON-INDIAN SPOUSE OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIAN AND YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY THE LOCAL FACILITIES AND HAVE NOT REMARRIED A NON-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR AVAILABLE SERVICES, AS MEDICALLY INDICATED IF YOU ARE A NON-INDIAN RESIDING IN AN ELIGIBLE INDIAN'S HOUSEHOLD AND MEDICAL DETERMINATION IS MADE BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE THAT PROVIDING NECESSARY SERVICES TO YOU WILL AID IN CONSERVING THE HEALTH OF INDIAN(S) IN THAT HOUSEHOLD. THE DETERMINATION WILL BE A PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BASED UPON THE INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE. IF THE APPLICANT'S CONDITION IS SUCH THAT IMMEDIATE CARE OR TREATMENT ARE NECESSARY, SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED PENDING DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.


PRIORITIES FOR CARE AND TREATMENT AMONG ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM. WHEN FUNDS, FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL ARE INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE THE INDICATED VOLUME OF SERVICES, PRIORITIES FOR CARE AND TREATMENT BETWEEN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF: (A) THE RELATIVE MEDICAL NEED, (B) THEIR ACCESS TO OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBTAINING THE NECESSARY CARE.

I AM SENDING YOU THIS INFORMATION SO THAT YOU WILL BE AWARE OF THESE PROPOSED CHANGES AND WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT YOUR OPINIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY. WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 17, 1981, TO

MR. RICHARD J. MCCLOSKEY, IHS
ROOM 5A - 39, 5600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20857

PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY AND SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS AND COMMENTS. IF YOU SHOULD REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THIS OFFICE AT ANY TIME.

SINCERELY,



HOLLIS E. ROBERTS, CHIEF
CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA