

(3) to provide transportation for such individual Indians to the appropriate offices for enrollment or applications for such benefits; and

(4) to develop and implement methods of improving the participation of Indians in receiving benefits under such programs.

**(c) Application to urban Indian organizations**

**(1) In general**

The provisions of subsection (a) shall apply with respect to grants and other funding to urban Indian organizations with respect to populations served by such organizations in the same manner they apply to grants and contracts with Indian tribes and tribal organizations with respect to programs on or near reservations.

**(2) Requirements**

The Secretary shall include in the grants or contracts made or provided under paragraph (1) requirements that are—

(A) consistent with the requirements imposed by the Secretary under subsection (b);

(B) appropriate to urban Indian organizations and urban Indians; and

(C) necessary to effect the purposes of this section.

**(d) Facilitating cooperation**

The Secretary, acting through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall develop and disseminate best practices that will serve to facilitate cooperation with, and agreements between, States and the Service, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or urban Indian organizations with respect to the provision of health care items and services to Indians under the programs established under title XVIII, XIX, or XXI of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.].

**(e) Agreements relating to improving enrollment of Indians under Social Security Act health benefits programs**

For provisions relating to agreements of the Secretary, acting through the Service, for the collection, preparation, and submission of applications by Indians for assistance under the Medicaid and children's health insurance programs established under titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.], and benefits under the Medicare program established under title XVIII of such Act [42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.], see subsections (a) and (b) of section 1139 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1320b-9].

**(f) Definition of premiums and cost sharing**

In this section:

**(1) Premium**

The term "premium" includes any enrollment fee or similar charge.

**(2) Cost sharing**

The term "cost sharing" includes any deduction, deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or similar charge.

(Pub. L. 94-437, title IV, §404, as added Pub. L. 96-537, §6, Dec. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 3176; amended Pub. L. 102-573, title IV, §403, Oct. 29, 1992, 106

Stat. 4566; Pub. L. 111-148, title X, §10221(a), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 935.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1), (d), and (e), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620. Titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act are classified generally to subchapters XVIII (§1395 et seq.), XIX (§1396 et seq.), and XXI (§1397aa et seq.), respectively, of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-148 is based on section 153 of title I of S. 1790, One Hundred Eleventh Congress, as reported by the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate in Dec. 2009, which was enacted into law by section 10221(a) of Pub. L. 111-148.

Section was formerly classified to section 1622 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-148 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to grants to and contracts with tribal organizations.

1992—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 102-573, §403(1), amended par. (4) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (4) read as follows: "develop and implement a schedule of income levels to determine the extent of payment of premiums by such organization for coverage of needy individuals; and methods of improving the participation of Indians in receiving the benefits provided pursuant to titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act."

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-573, §403(2), amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: "There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1981, \$5,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, \$6,615,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983, and \$7,610,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984."

**§ 1645. Sharing arrangements with Federal agencies**

**(a) Authority**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary may enter into (or expand) arrangements for the sharing of medical facilities and services between the Service, Indian tribes, urban Indian organizations, and tribal organizations and the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

**(2) Consultation by Secretary required**

The Secretary may not finalize any arrangement between the Service and a Department described in paragraph (1) without first consulting with the Indian tribes which will be significantly affected by the arrangement.

**(b) Limitations**

The Secretary shall not take any action under this section or under subchapter IV of chapter 81 of title 38 which would impair—

(1) the priority access of any Indian to health care services provided through the Service and the eligibility of any Indian to receive health services through the Service;

(2) the quality of health care services provided to any Indian through the Service;

(3) the priority access of any veteran to health care services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(4) the quality of health care services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense; or

(5) the eligibility of any Indian who is a veteran to receive health services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**(c) Reimbursement**

The Service, Indian tribe, urban Indian organization, or tribal organization shall be reimbursed by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense (as the case may be) where services are provided through the Service, an Indian tribe, an urban Indian organization, or a tribal organization to beneficiaries eligible for services from either such Department, notwithstanding any other provision of law, regardless of whether such services are provided directly by the Service, an Indian tribe, or tribal organization, through purchased/referred care, or through a contract for travel described in section 1621(b) of this title.

**(d) Construction**

Nothing in this section may be construed as creating any right of a non-Indian veteran to obtain health services from the Service.

(Pub. L. 94-437, title IV, §405, as added Pub. L. 100-713, title IV, §402, Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4818; amended Pub. L. 102-573, title IV, §404, title VII, §701(c)(3), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4566, 4572; Pub. L. 104-313, §2(d), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3822; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(e) [title III, §336], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-231, 2681-295; Pub. L. 105-362, title VI, §601(a)(2)(B), Nov. 10, 1998, 112 Stat. 3285; Pub. L. 106-417, §§3(a), 4, Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1813, 1816; Pub. L. 108-173, title IX, §900(e)(6)(B), Dec. 8, 2003, 117 Stat. 2373; Pub. L. 111-148, title X, §10221(a), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 935; Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title XI, §1113, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 3251; Pub. L. 116-311, §2, Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4927.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-148 is based on section 154 of title I of S. 1790, One Hundred Eleventh Congress, as reported by the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate in Dec. 2009, which was enacted into law by section 10221(a) of Pub. L. 111-148.

Section was formerly set out as a note under section 1395q of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

**AMENDMENTS**

2021—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-311 inserted “, regardless of whether such services are provided directly by the Service, an Indian tribe, or tribal organization, through purchased/referred care, or through a contract for travel described in section 1621(b) of this title” before period at end.

2020—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 116-260, §1113(1), inserted “urban Indian organizations,” before “and tribal organizations”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-260, §1113(2), inserted “urban Indian organization,” before “or tribal organization” and “an urban Indian organization,” before “or a tribal organization”.

2010—Pub. L. 111-148 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to establishment of program for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native health organizations.

2003—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 108-173 substituted “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” for “Health

Care Financing Administration” in introductory provisions.

2000—Pub. L. 106-417, §4(a), reenacted section as in effect on Nov. 9, 1998. For text of section as reenacted, see 1998 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 106-417, §3(a), amended section generally. For text of section prior to amendment, see subsecs. (a) to (d) of section as set out in 1998 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-417, §4(b), struck out subsec. (e). For text of subsec. (e) prior to amendment, see subsec. (e) of section as set out in 1998 Amendment note below.

1998—Pub. L. 105-362 repealed section. Prior to repeal, section read as follows:

“§1645. Demonstration program for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors

“(a) The Secretary shall establish a demonstration program under which Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native health organizations, which are contracting the entire operation of an entire hospital or clinic of the Service under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination Act, shall directly bill for, and receive payment for, health care services provided by such hospital or clinic for which payment is made under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (medicare), under a State plan for medical assistance approved under title XIX of the Social Security Act (medicaid), or from any other third-party payor. The last sentence of section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act shall apply for purposes of the demonstration program.

“(b)(1) Each hospital or clinic participating in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section shall be reimbursed directly under the medicare and medicaid programs for services furnished, without regard to the provisions of section 1880(c) of the Social Security Act and sections 1642(a) and 1680c(b)(2)(A) of this title, but all funds so reimbursed shall first be used by the hospital or clinic for the purpose of making any improvements in the hospital or clinic that may be necessary to achieve or maintain compliance with the conditions and requirements applicable generally to facilities of such type under the medicare or medicaid program. Any funds so reimbursed which are in excess of the amount necessary to achieve or maintain such conditions or requirements shall be used—

“(A) solely for improving the health resources deficiency level of the Indian tribe, and

“(B) in accordance with the regulations of the Service applicable to funds provided by the Service under any contract entered into under the Indian Self-Determination Act.

“(2) The amounts paid to the hospitals and clinics participating in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to all auditing requirements applicable to programs administered directly by the Service and to facilities participating in the medicare and medicaid programs.

“(3) The Secretary shall monitor the performance of hospitals and clinics participating in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section, and shall require such hospitals and clinics to submit reports on the program to the Secretary on a quarterly basis (or more frequently if the Secretary deems it to be necessary).

“(4) Notwithstanding section 1880(c) of the Social Security Act or section 1642(a) of this title, no payment may be made out of the special fund described in section 1880(c) of the Social Security Act, or section 1642(a) of this title, for the benefit of any hospital or clinic participating in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section during the period of such participation.

“(c)(1) In order to be considered for participation in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section, a hospital or clinic must submit an application to the Secretary which establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

“(A) the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or Alaska Native health organization contracts the entire operation of the Service facility;

“(B) the facility is eligible to participate in the medicare and medicaid programs under sections 1880 and 1911 of the Social Security Act;

“(C) the facility meets any requirements which apply to programs operated directly by the Service; and

“(D) the facility is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, or has submitted a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary, for achieving such accreditation prior to October 1, 1990.

“(2) From among the qualified applicants, the Secretary shall, prior to October 1, 1989, select no more than 4 facilities to participate in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section. The demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section shall begin by no later than October 1, 1991, and end on September 30, 2000.

“(d)(1) On November 23, 1988, the Secretary, acting through the Service, shall commence an examination of—

“(A) any administrative changes which may be necessary to allow direct billing and reimbursement under the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section, including any agreements with States which may be necessary to provide for such direct billing under the medicaid program; and

“(B) any changes which may be necessary to enable participants in such demonstration program to provide to the Service medical records information on patients served under such demonstration program which is consistent with the medical records information system of the Service.

“(2) Prior to the commencement of the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall implement all changes required as a result of the examinations conducted under paragraph (1).

“(3) Prior to October 1, 1990, the Secretary shall determine any accounting information which a participant in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section would be required to report.

“(e) The Secretary shall submit a final report at the end of fiscal year 1996, on the activities carried out under the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section which shall include an evaluation of whether such activities have fulfilled the objectives of such program. In such report the Secretary shall provide a recommendation, based upon the results of such demonstration program, as to whether direct billing of, and reimbursement by, the medicare and medicaid programs and other third-party payors should be authorized for all Indian tribes and Alaska Native health organizations which are contracting the entire operation of a facility of the Service.

“(f) The Secretary shall provide for the retrocession of any contract entered into between a participant in the demonstration program described in subsection (a) of this section and the Service under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination Act. All cost accounting and billing authority shall be retroceded to the Secretary upon the Secretary's acceptance of a retroceded contract.”

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 105-277 substituted “2000” for “1998”.

1996—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 104-313 substituted “1998” for “1996”.

1992—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 102-573, §701(c)(3)(A), substituted “sections 1642(a)” for “sections 402(c)” and made technical amendment to reference to section 1680c(b)(2)(A) to reflect renumbering of corresponding section of original act.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 102-573, §701(c)(3)(B), substituted “section 1642(a)” for “section 402(c)” in two places.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 102-573, §404(1), substituted “1996” for “1995”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-573, §404(2), substituted “1996” for “1995”.

## Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-417, §3(c), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1816, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 1395qq and 1396j of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare] shall take effect on October 1, 2000.”

Pub. L. 106-417, §4(a), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1816, provided that the reenactment of this section by section 4(a) is effective Nov. 9, 1998.

Pub. L. 106-417, §4(b), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1816, provided that the amendment made by section 4(b) is effective Nov. 10, 1998.

### FINDINGS

Pub. L. 106-417, §2, Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1812, provided findings of Congress relating to amendment of this section by Pub. L. 106-417.

## § 1646. Authorization for emergency contract health services

With respect to an elderly or disabled Indian receiving emergency medical care or services from a non-Service provider or in a non-Service facility under the authority of this chapter, the time limitation (as a condition of payment) for notifying the Service of such treatment or admission shall be 30 days.

(Pub. L. 94-437, title IV, §406, as added Pub. L. 102-573, title IV, §405, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4566.)

### Editorial Notes

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 94-437, Sept. 30, 1976, 90 Stat. 1400, known as the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title and Tables.

## § 1647. Eligible Indian veteran services

### (a) Findings; purpose

#### (1) Findings

Congress finds that—

(A) collaborations between the Secretary and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding the treatment of Indian veterans at facilities of the Service should be encouraged to the maximum extent practicable; and

(B) increased enrollment for services of the Department of Veterans Affairs by veterans who are members of Indian tribes should be encouraged to the maximum extent practicable.

#### (2) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to reaffirm the goals stated in the document entitled “Memorandum of Understanding Between the VA/Veterans Health Administration And HHS/Indian Health Service” and dated February 25, 2003 (relating to cooperation and resource sharing between the Veterans Health Administration and Service).

### (b) Definitions

In this section: