



Purchased Referred Care

What is PRC?

Purchase Referred Care (PRC) is a program that is funded by the Federal Indian Health Services (IHS) and administered to the Quartz Valley Indian Tribe by the Anav Tribal Health Clinic. The PRC Program provides limited funding for medical/dental care provided away from our facility. The PRC program requirements are based on specific legislation, federal regulations, policy, and guidelines to maintain the needs of tribal members.

Medical, dental and Behavioral Health care provided in the Anav Tribal Health Clinic is called Direct Care. The PRC Program is for care provided away from our facility.

Eligibility:

PRC is not an entitlement program and a referral from Anav does not imply that the care will be paid. If Anav is requested to pay, then a patient must meet the residency requirements, notification requirements, compliancy requirements, medical, dental, and behavioral health priority, and use of alternate resources.

Because IHS programs are not fully funded, the PRC program must rely on specific federal regulations. The IHS is designated as the payor of last resort meaning that all other available alternate resources including IHS facilities must first be used before payment is expected. These mechanisms enhance the IHS to stretch the limited PRC dollars and designed to extend services to more Indians. This renders the PRC program to authorize care at restricted levels and results in a rationed health care system.

To be eligible for PRC services through Anav Tribal Health Clinic clients must:

- 1) Be a registered patient of ATHC,**
- 2) Reside in Siskiyou County,**
- 3) Document that client is either an enrolled member of Quartz Valley Indian Reservation or a non QVIR woman pregnant with an eligible QVIR Member's child during pregnancy through six-week post-partum.**

How to use PRC at Anav Tribal Health Clinic:

- Patients must have a referral from one of Anav's medical, dental, or behavioral health providers for outside services.
- Eligibility requirements are assessed and payment for services is either deferred, authorized, or denied based on information provided.

- Pre-Authorization is required for payment on any referred services and/or follow up care. It is the patients' responsibility to confirm authorization statuses before utilizing the outside service.
- Anav Tribal Health Clinic asks that patients maintain close contact with PRC staff for coverage updates.
- Once all eligibility requirements are met, payment for services is made to the appropriate entity as resources allow.

Alternate resources:

- An individual must apply for and use all alternate resources that are available and accessible, such as Medicare A and B, state Medi-Cal, County Medical Services Program (CMSP), state or other federal health program, private insurance, etc.
- Patients who do not have alternate resources must apply for the appropriate alternate service to meet eligibility.
- If a patient fails to apply for alternate resources, PRC requests may be denied.
- PRC payments may be authorized if the patient applies for alternate resources and provides proof of denial (for example, CMSP denial letter).

Remember:

If an emergency may occur it is very important that the PRC department is notified within 72 hours of the services being provided, this will allow PRC to potentially pay for those emergent services.

PRC funds are not guaranteed to last the entire fiscal year, it is very important that the patient confirms pre-authorization before utilizing a referred service.

For more information:

The IHS website provides additional information regarding Purchased Referred Care including the history of PRC, additional eligibility information, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section, and a complete PRC Manual based on Congressional legislation, funding, and authority for the PRC program.

<http://www.ihs.gov/nonmedicalprograms/chs/index.cfm>

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Anav Tribal Health Clinic's PRC staff at (530)468-4470 ext 308.