

# National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference

## Veteran Affairs Sharing Agreements with Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health Program (THP)

September 26, 2012



# Overview

Over the past few years, the VA and Indian Health Programs took a few leaps forward:

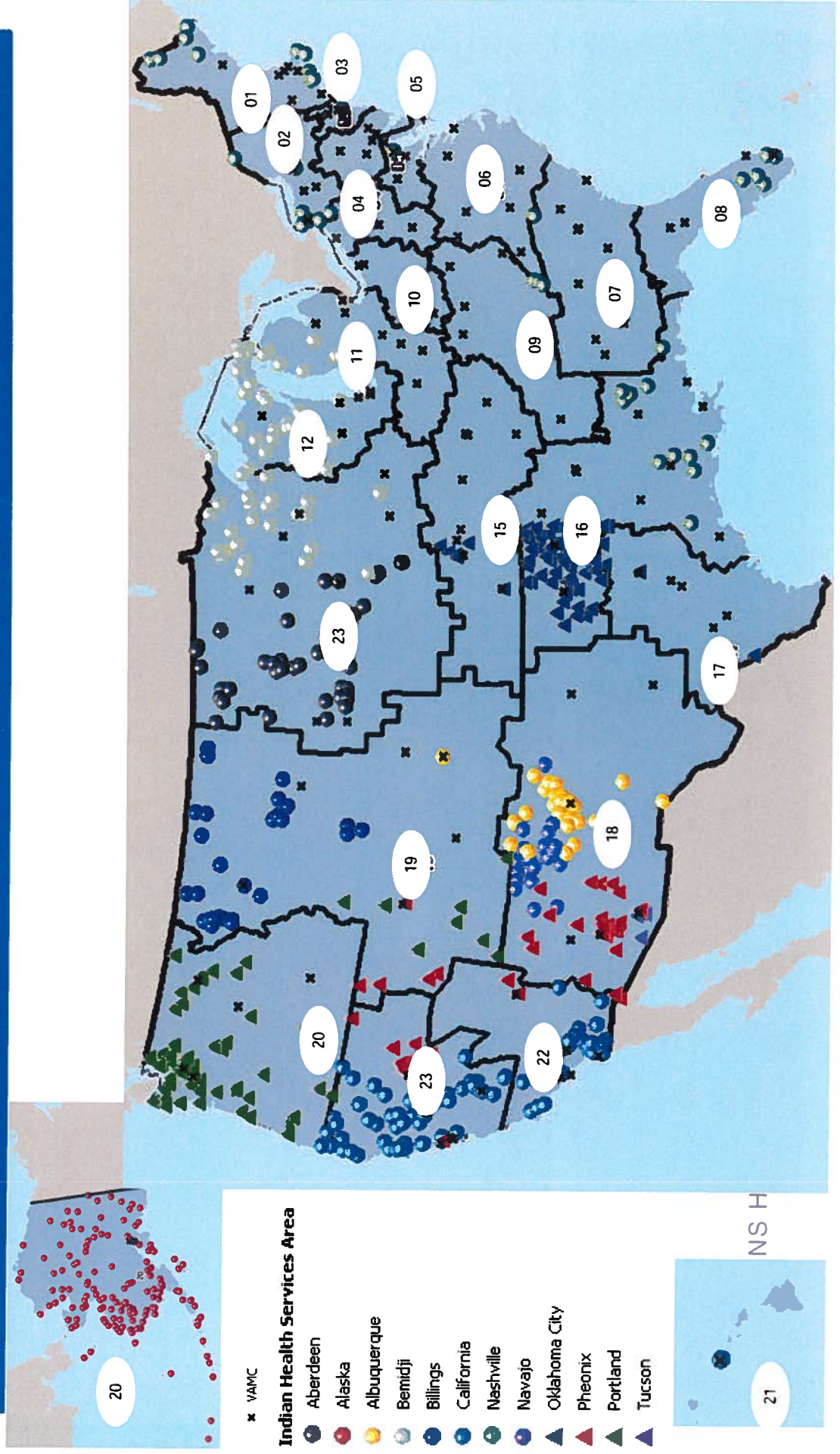
- October 1, 2010: the VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Petzel, and the IHS Director, Dr. Roubideaux, signed a Memorandum of Understand (MOU)
- March – May 2012: VA and IHS and Tribal Health Programs (THP) initiated tribal consultation on a draft national agreement
- August 24, 2012: Dr. Petzel signed and distributed the Dear Tribal Leader Letter with enclosures including Frequently Asked Questions, Claims Process Site Readiness, and Tribal Health Program Highlights

## The MOU and Agreements:

- ✓ Promotes quality health care through collaborative relationships and agreements
- ✓ Focuses on increasing coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans



# IHS and THP Locations in the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs)



# VISN Business Implementation Managers (BIMS)

## Points of Contact

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Note: There is no VISN #13 or #14



## VISN BIMs Points of Contact - Continued

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For more information on your local VAMC or VISN BIM POCs, send an e-mail to [tribal.agreements@va.gov](mailto:tribal.agreements@va.gov)

## Status Summary

- IHS National Agreement is in development
- Implementation documents for the Tribal Health Programs were published:
  - VA Dear Tribal Leader Letter
  - Tribal Health Program Highlights
  - VA and Tribal Health Program Site Readiness Criteria
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Currently 26 signed Tribal Health Program Agreements and 1 in queue
- The VA Implementation Team consists of support from the following offices:
  - Chief Business Office
  - Office of Rural Health
  - Office of Tribal Government Relations
  - Office of Quality, Safety, and Value
  - Office of General Council

# Program Highlights

Once local Tribal Healthcare facilities establish sharing agreements with VA Medical Centers (VAMCs), eligible American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans will receive the following benefits from their local tribal health facilities:

- ✓ Medical Benefits Package.
  - The VA will reimburse for direct health services under the same Medical Benefits package available to all Veterans under 38 CFR § 17.38.
- ✓ Choice of care provider.
  - Eligible AI/AN Veterans can choose to receive their healthcare from the tribal healthcare facility and/or VAMC. No pre-authorization will be required for AI/AN Veterans if care is received at the tribal healthcare facility.
- ✓ Pharmacy Options.
  - Tribal Health Programs will be reimbursed when providing a 30-day supply of outpatient medications to AI/AN Veterans.
  - After the initial 30-day supply, VA will reimburse for prescriptions using the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) for routine, long-term outpatient medication.

# Tribal Health Program (THP) Sharing Agreement Implementation Process

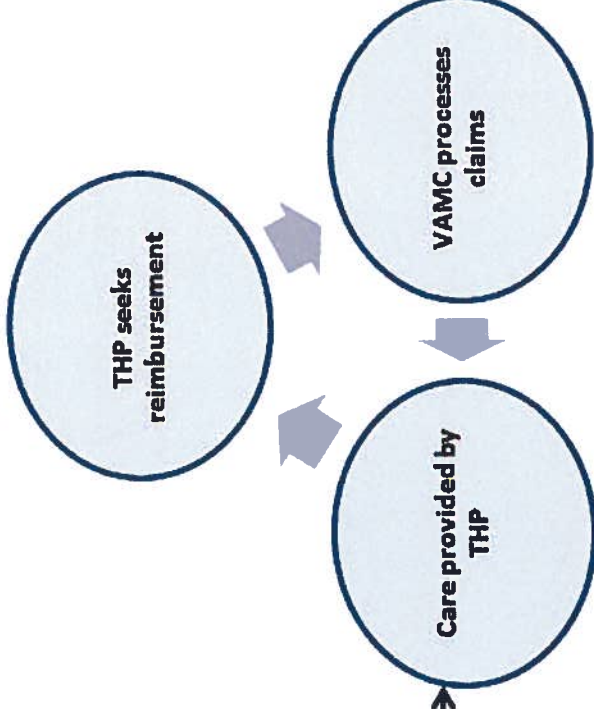
## Sharing Agreement Process



- The THP may reach out to the tribal mailbox or the VAMC directly
- The VA Implementation Team and THP will work closely to manage these first steps

- The VA Chief Business Office of Purchased Care and the VAMC reviews, recommends approval
- At the same time, the THP is working to complete the Site Readiness criteria
- Final signatures from both the THP, VAMC, the VA Contracting Officer completes the process

## Operations



There is a key difference between the THP process and IHS. The IHS implementation process will begin once there is a signed national agreement. Once a national agreement is signed, we will collaborate to provide IHS facilities details on implementation.

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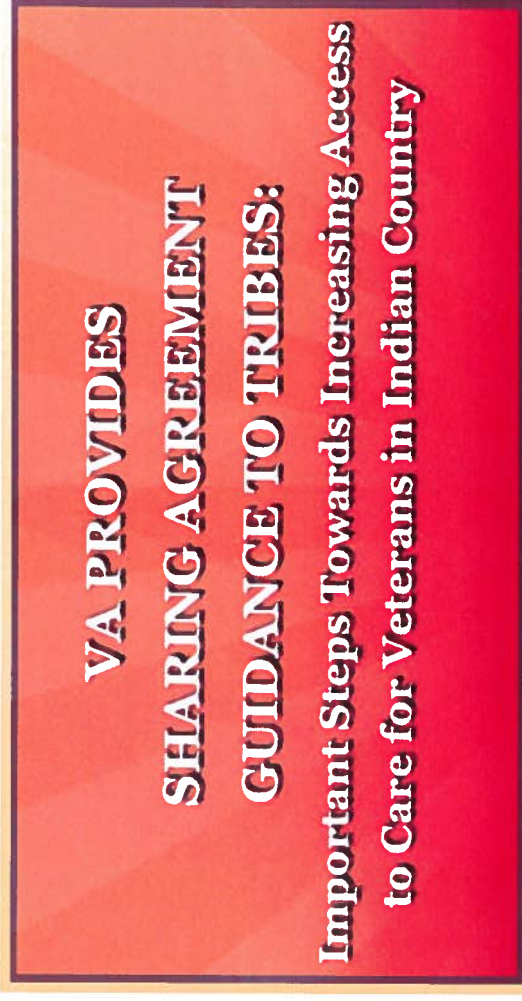
## Further Information

All documentation on how to establish agreements will be housed at Office of Tribal Government Relations Website.

<http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/>

For more information on getting started with Tribal Health Program agreements, send an e-mail to

[tribal.agreements@va.gov](mailto:tribal.agreements@va.gov)



→ Download the Dear Tribal Leader Letter  
→ Working Effectively with Tribal Governments

