

Utah Medicaid Traditional Healing

October 2026



Department of Health
& Human Services

Timeline: From Legislation to Approval

- **2024 General Session:** Utah Legislature passes [S.B. 181](#).
- **November 25, 2024:** Utah DHHS formally submits the waiver application to CMS.
- **December 2024 – January 2025:** 30-day federal public comment period shows strong public support.
- **September 23–25, 2026:** CMS approves Utah's 5-year demonstration (effective October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2031).

Key Elements of the CMS Approval Document

- **Demonstration Scope:** Expenditure authority for traditional health care practices across I/T/U providers.
- **Provider Qualifications:** Practitioners must be employed by or contracted with an eligible I/T/U facility. Qualifying facilities maintain sole authority to establish qualification standards, training, and experience requirements.
- **Reimbursement Structure:** Fee-for-Service delivery model utilizing the OMB IHS All-Inclusive Rate (AIR) per encounter.
- **Federal Attestations:** Requires state attestation ensuring beneficiary access to clinical alternatives, voluntary choice, and protection of standard Medicaid benefits.

Traditional Healing

- I/T/U facilities and Tribes can determine who qualifies as a traditional healer.
- Services will be covered when rendered at or through an I/T/U facility
- Open Code H0051
- Open Rev Code 0509 to report service performed in outpatient hospital or facility

Traditional Healing

- H0051 is reimbursed as part of the standard medical encounter AIR and does not qualify as a separate, distinct encounter
- If traditional healing is the only medical service on a day the service will be reimbursed at the standard AIR rate.

Traditional Healing

- Next steps
 - Review changes needed to PRISM
 - Update IHS Manual

Questions



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