What types of services are provided through the Indian Health Service (IHS)?

- **Direct Care**
  Services that are provided at IHS facilities (including WMHC and the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, or PIMC).

- **Contract Health Services**
  Some services that are not available at IHS facilities require a referral to a non-IHS (outside) facility. Contract Health authorizes payment for eligible patients.

What medical services are covered?

The services received must meet the criteria established as medical priorities:

- **Emergencies** – threat of life or limb
- **Medical services** that are not available at Wassaja Memorial Health Center (WMHC) or PIMC that have been pre-approved by Fort McDowell’s Contract Health Services (CHS)

Is Contract Health the same as insurance?

No, Contract Health is the payor of last resort. This means that if a patient is eligible for (or has) alternate resources, like private insurance, Medicare, or AHCCCS, the alternate resources need to be utilized first before Contract Health considers payment.

Am I eligible for Contract Health at Fort McDowell?

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

1. **Proof of Indian Descent**
   You must be an enrolled member of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, or
   - enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe and maintain a close socioeconomic tie with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (for example, you are married to a Tribal member and/or work here).
   - If you are under 18 years of age and are NOT enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe, you must provide proof of tribal descendency (your birth certificate and a copy of your parent(s) tribal enrollment certification).

2. **Residence**
   You must reside on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation reservation for more than 6 months and provide PROOF OF RESIDENCE, for example, a utility bill with your name and current address, housing papers, school enrollment, or driver’s license.

3. **Alternate Resources**
   You must use other resources to pay for your care first. For example, if you have insurance through work, or any other type of insurance like Medicare, VA, or AHCCCS, you must use those resources first. If you are eligible for an alternate resource, YOU MUST APPLY for that resource.

4. **Obtain Prior Approval**
   You must obtain prior approval from Fort McDowell’s Contract Health Services for NON-EMERGENCY care.

5. **Notify Fort McDowell’s Contract Health Representative**
   You must notify Fort McDowell’s Contract Health Services within 72 hours of a hospital admission by calling (480) 789-7880 and speaking with the Contract Health Services representative. A faxed notification from the hospital/ER is also allowed.
   - Special consideration is given to Elders (age over 55). They will have 30 days to provide notification.

You may be denied Contract Health Services for any of the following reasons:

- You do not live on the FMYN Reservation
- You are over age 18 and are not enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe
- You could have been treated at WMHC or another IHS facility for non-life-threatening care
- WMHC did not make the referral for non-emergency care
- Contract Health Services does not cover dental services or prescription medication costs
- FMYN Contract Health Services does not pay for services related to drug and/or alcohol use
- You did not notify Contract Health Services within 72 hours from the beginning of emergency medical treatment
- You are eligible for alternate resources but failed to apply
- You have alternate resources but they have not yet been billed
**APPEALS PROCESS**

Any Appeal must be in writing and received with 30 Days from receiving a denial letter.

Submit Appeals to:

Contract Health Committee,  
Wassaja Memorial Health Center  
P.O. Box 17779  
Fountain Hills, AZ  85269

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**QUESTIONS**

For questions regarding Contract Health Services, please call:

(480) 789-7880

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If you do not have health insurance, here are a few helpful tips:

- Apply for AHCCCS if you haven’t already done so.
- If you are eligible for health insurance through work, please enroll in your employee health plan as soon as possible.
- Establish a chart at Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) if you don’t already have one. They have more direct services available there, like dental, behavioral health, podiatry, radiology, etc.
- In case of emergency, please go to the emergency room at PIMC.

⚠️ **If you choose to go elsewhere and fail to meet Contract Health criteria, THE MEDICAL BILLS WILL BE YOURS TO PAY.**

- Remember that IHS is not an insurance but a healthcare system.
- Contract Health does not pay for dental services or prescription medication.
- If you are nearing age 65 and are eligible for Medicare, please be sure to enroll in Part A and Part B.