

Indigent Expert Q&A Panel

Panelists:

Kevin Rothenberger, Bonner County Indigent Director

Teresa Wolf, Nez Perce County Indigent Director

Sharon Sturm, Bingham County Indigent Director

Roger Christensen, Bonneville County Commissioner

Susan Keck, Cassia County Indigent Director

Dan Chadwick, IAC Executive Director

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Indigent Questions

- Do counties have a legal obligation to provide an interpreter at interview and initial hearings?
- How should counties handle “Go Fund Me” type accounts?
- Should incremental nursing charges (additional charges to standard ICU charges) be considered in the indigency calculations?
 - If the proper medical records were/were not provided timely?

Indigent Questions

- If a provider submits tracking number for mailed medical records, that were mailed within the 10 day time frame, considered timely if the records are received after the 10th day?
- Is the county required to pay for medical services are rendered during an involuntary hold, and appear not related to the hold?
 - Or should the County challenge the charges?

Indigent Questions

- A combined application was field by the hospital, liens were placed, applicant files bankruptcy, applicant is discharged, and case is approved:
 - What is the status of the County's debt?
 - Is the promissory note signed after the bankruptcy discharge enforceable?
 - Is the County's reimbursement order enforceable?
 - If a Ch. 7, is the County restricted from pursuing at all?

Indigent Questions

- Are counties able to include the applicant's tax refund as part of their income when calculating indigency?
- Are available credit lines/credit cards a potential resource for payment?
 - Is it legal?
 - Are counties doing this?

Indigent Questions

- Non-emergent application for 71 year old patient, receiving Social Security, Medicare Part A, and missed enrollment for Medicare part B. Patient will be eligible July 1st of this year (birthday month).
- Can counties deny because Medicare Part B was a resource that was not taken advantage of?

Indigent Questions

- An applicant lived in Fremont County, was incarcerated 27 years ago (State Correctional Institute) and was released to a half-way house, in Ada County, in January:
 - Does the County go back as far as 27 years to determine obligated County?
 - Or does the County only look at the last 5 years preceding the incurrence of medical costs?

Indigent Questions

- If a patient has insurance, can a provider file an application for County assistance prior to a decision from the insurance company?
- Can a provider tell whether a patient has hospital coverage by looking at the insurance card?
- Are non-documented workers eligible for health insurance?

Indigent Questions

- What is the nature of the relationship between the Indigent program and the CAT program?
- Are counties obligated to cooperate with CAT when processing cases?
- What is the outcome if a County approves an application and the CAT board denies the claims?