ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

New Tribal Specific H-Codes Notice

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published new 2025 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) coding determinations. Within this guidance, CMS introduced and defined two new HCPCS codes specific to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) and indigenous historical trauma.

AHCCCS will open these new H-codes on January 1, 2026, as descriptor codes.

New HCPCS Codes and Working Definitions

H0052 Missing and Murdered indigenous persons (MMIP)- mental health and clinical care Behavioral health and clinical care services (including physical healthcare services) that are provided to a patient affected by a missing or murdered American Indian or Alaska Native person. This may include emotional, spiritual, or mental health support and advocacy.
H0053 Historical trauma- mental health and clinical care for indigenous persons Behavioral health and clinical care services (including physical healthcare services) that are provided to an American Indian or Alaska Native person affected by historical trauma. This may include emotional, spiritual, psychological, or other health support and advocacy. Historical trauma is considered to be any generational trauma stemming from past or present mass atrocities (ie. murder, displacement, disease, starvation, cultural/language deprivation) affecting Native people that has resulted in effects such as depression, domestic abuse, alcohol abuse, unsettled grief, or other mental/physical ailments.

Implementation

AHCCCS will first implement these codes as “descriptor” codes to gather more information. This means that:

- These two codes will be purely informational to start. This will allow AHCCCS to better understand what utilization may look like.
- Informational codes will be set at a penny rate while data is further collected and assessed.

For any H-code related questions please email codingpolicyquestions@azahcccs.gov.